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Earl Russell and Obstructive Liberalism.  
Mr. Hare's System of Representation.  
The Italian Elections.  
Mr. Gladstone and the Trades' Unions.  
Incentives to Fenianism.  
Our Military Wants.  
Vivian Grey's Mysteries.  
A Lunatic on Oath.

The French Press.  
The Social Training of Servants.  
Artemus Ward.  
The Season.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.  
OUR UNIVERSITY LETTER.  
FINE ARTS:—  
Music.  
The London Theatres.

## SCIENCE.

MONEY AND COMMERCE:—  
The Money Market.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS:—  
Parliamentary Government in England.  
Sir Charles Wood's Indian Administration.

Half Round the Old World.  
Recent Classical School Books.  
Familiar Quotations.  
New Novels.  
The Scientific Periodicals.  
Short Notices.

Literary Gossip.  
List of New Publications for the Week.

## EARL RUSSELL AND OBSTRUCTIVE LIBERALISM.

IT is usual to call Earl Russell a "veteran"—and he deserves the title in more ways than one. No one will deny his long and faithful services in the cause of progress and Reform. As Mr. Gladstone once said of him, if it were the fashion to confer decorations for political victories, his breast would be a blaze of orders. An ungrudging tribute of gratitude is due to him for his past achievements, but it by no means follows that he is the best man to lead us forth to new battles. He has not only acquired the renown, but he has contracted the habits and infirmities of a veteran. He lives in the past rather than in the present. His heart is in the conflicts of his youth, more than in those which he is now called upon to wage. He tells us of old fights, when we want him to give out a stirring summons to new ones. He breaks out in panegyrics upon the friends and companions of his middle age, when he ought to be rallying round him the men of a subsequent generation. Instead of laying down principles adapted to the present day, he favours us with "autobiographical reminiscences." Under circumstances widely different from those which existed when he first led the House of Commons, he would repeat the old strategy, and rely upon the same means of success. Although since then parties have undergone more than one process of composition and decomposition, and their boundaries now fluctuate almost from day to day, he still conducts himself as if he were the leader of a compact Whig band, fighting for the orthodox faith against the political heterodoxies of Toryism and Radicalism. In an age when everything is changing, he changes not; and of all the public men of our time, he exhibits the least power of adaptation to the time and temper of the day. His speech in the House of Lords on Monday evening last illustrates and completely bears us out in these remarks. It was not only a curious, but in some respects a painful performance. At a time when the attention and expectation of all who take an interest in politics are fixed upon the policy of the Government, and the probable character of their next, and we trust their final, Reform Bill, the noble Earl thought it worth while to detain the impatient House of Lords for half an hour with a dissertation on the effect of the Reform Act in enfranchising the working classes, with a statement of his real reasons for opposing the celebrated Chandos clause, with a panegyric upon the second Earl Grey, and with a sophistical attempt to show that he had only made one, and not three, failures in the course of his recent attempts to amend the representation of the people. Lord Derby, in replying, said that he had listened with "unfeigned astonishment" to this singularly inappropriate speech. But that is certainly not the feeling with which it inspires us. So far from being astonished at the noble Earl's indulging in this old soldier's sort of talk, it is just what we should expect; for it is just what we are accustomed to, and what we are heartily tired of.

It may be all very well as a matter of historical interest to know what were Earl Russell's opinions on the Chandos clause, and what was the actual effect of that measure in increasing or diminishing the power of the working classes. But our action to-day cannot be, and ought not to be, influenced by any considerations of this kind. We have our own problem to solve, and we must work it out on the data of to-day, and not on those of thirty-five years ago. We should, however, have

hardly thought it worth while to dwell upon the merely tedious and irrelevant portion of Earl Russell's speech if he had not followed it up with something much worse. If he had confined himself to extolling the past we should simply have left him to tell his threadbare tale to those who might care to listen. But he did not stop there. The Cabinet of Earl Grey unfortunately considered and decided against household suffrage, and by this decision the noble Earl apparently still feels himself bound. As the Liberal leader one would have expected to find him encouraging and stimulating the Government in the direction of Reform. But instead of that his voice was on this occasion a restraining and warning one. The Earl of Derby must have felt real and not feigned astonishment at hearing himself cautioned by Earl Russell against democratic tendencies; and undoubtedly, whatever may have been the thoughts of the Conservative leader, most Liberals must have experienced painful surprise at the line taken by the late Prime Minister. It would have been intelligible enough that he should warn the Government that if household suffrage be given it must be given without checks or counterpoises, which would render it valueless; and that he should declare that if they were not willing to go thus far they had better honourably and avowedly stop short at some intermediate point. But it is certainly most disappointing to find him taking up the cry which the Conservatives have dropped; and talking about the swamping of the middle classes, very much in the style of our contemporaries of the "thoughtful" school. When Lord Derby actually promises a Bill founded upon the principles of Mr. Potter, it will be time enough to remonstrate against it. In the mean time it is worse than foolish—it is positively mischievous—for Earl Russell, so long as he holds his present position, to give even temporary countenance to the notion that he is less liberal than his Tory opponent. Such conduct can only have the effect of distracting the counsels of his party, of checking its confidence in its leaders, of encouraging those who in their hearts dislike Reform, and of cooling the enthusiasm and checking the spirit of more earnest and thorough-going politicians. The noble Earl's want of sympathy with his followers, and his deficiency in tact, have often before led him into serious blunders; but we doubt whether he ever made a greater mistake than that which he committed on Monday last.

Although Earl Russell may be wedded to the principle of a rating or a rental franchise, it is clear that all chance of its adoption will be gone—if it is not gone already—as soon as a Tory Government adopts the principle of household suffrage. From that time forth, it will be perfectly useless to discuss whether a more restricted measure of enfranchisement might not have met the case. All that will remain for those who wish to make the constituency as nearly as possible a fair representation of the nation, will be to consider how far and by what means it will be reasonable and practical to give the suffrage to those who will not be reached by a mere extension downwards. We have never concealed our opinion that, although fancy franchises were utterly out of place in connection with so limited a measure as the Government Bill of last year, they would be fairly entitled to consideration if so large an addition be made to the working-class electors as will be effected by household suffrage. While we entertain the gravest objections to the franchises we have just mentioned, if they are employed



as the mere means of taking away from the working classes with one hand what is given with the other, we are quite ready to accept some of them—in connection with household suffrage—as a means of giving variety to the constituencies and of getting at as many as possible of those whom it is desirable to invest with votes. There may have been in former times good reason for connecting the vote with the possession or occupation of property; but we see no reason to elevate a rule of convenience into a constitutional, or at any rate a party superstition. We must deal with things as we find them, and meet the difficulties and the exigencies of to-day with the means adapted to our existing state of society. To do this it is requisite that we should be led by a statesman who is abreast of the age—who is acquainted with the men, the wants, and the opinions of his own generation—who possesses the vigour, the originality, and the flexibility of resource which are not the characteristics of advanced age. It is idle to suppose that things can be kept for ever in the old ruts, and made to move constantly in ancient grooves, whether Whig or Radical. Political tactics that were all very well when the two sides of the House were occupied by compact masses, always voting together at the signals of their respective fuglemen, will not do now when on both sets of benches, and especially on the Liberal benches, we have a large body of independent members whose opinions must be consulted, and whose convictions must be respected. These men will not be driven; they are deaf to old cries; they can only be led by some one who can appreciate the variety and independence of modern thought. It is natural enough that Mr. Bright should do his best to uphold the leadership of Earl Russell, for both these eminent men are alike distinguished by narrowness of political views, absence of broad political sympathies, and a pedantic preference for the traditional strategy of party warfare. Both of them, as they bear the honourable scars, also retain some of the rancour of former conflicts. The member for Birmingham has not disguised his discontent with the course which Mr. Gladstone has adopted during the present session. If he and Earl Russell could have had their way, it is probable that they would have joined issue with the Government on the method of proceeding by resolutions—and would have sustained a damaging defeat. Happily, better counsels prevailed. If we except Mr. Bright and his immediate followers, every one else is agreed that Mr. Gladstone has, during the present session, proved in the most conclusive manner his fitness for the post of leader. No one ever disputed his abilities; but until the present session there were many who denied that he possessed the temper, the power of conciliation, and the self-restraint which are equally necessary for the situation. There is now no ground for doubt on these points, and it is therefore worth inquiring whether the time has not arrived for Earl Russell to seek the retirement which he has so well earned. As a member without office of a future Liberal Cabinet he might fill with advantage the position occupied by the late Lord Lansdowne, but he is as much out of place as a leader in the political warfare of the present day as one of the old Austrian generals was at the head of an army after Bonaparte had swept all their old-fashioned strategy and worn-out notions off the face of the earth. Most Liberals felt a sense of relief when it was recently announced that his lordship had handed over the bâton of command to Mr. Gladstone. Unfortunately the statement turned out to be inaccurate, but we trust that it was only a little premature. Whatever opinions may be entertained by particular cliques or coteries, there can be no doubt that the Liberal party as a whole looks for guidance and direction to the right hon. gentleman; and it is but right that, if he has the responsibility of leadership, he should have the authority which its distinct recognition can alone confer upon him.

#### MR. HARE'S SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATION.

AMIDST all the schemes of Parliamentary representation of which we have heard so much during the last four weeks, Mr. Hare's seems to have been nearly forgotten. And it is doubtful whether his recent letter to the *Daily News* will attract the attention it deserves. The reasons, however, lie on the surface. The Tories, from their nature averse, partly from timidity, partly from selfishness in the worst sense of the word, to everything that is new, are naturally opposed to a scheme which carries out the principle of popular representation to its furthest possible limits. The Liberals, still eager for a victory, which is not yet obtained, can scarcely, in the heat of the fight, perhaps, be expected to give due consideration to a scheme which regards all parties with the same philosophic calmness. As

the happiness of mankind is the end of morality, so is the perfect representation of their views the end of Mr. Hare's representative scheme. But whilst average politicians have for the most part been indifferent, there have not been wanting the most vehement opponents to the plan. The scheme has been denounced as impracticable by Tory writers, and as beautiful but visionary by Liberal amateurs. On the other hand, its principles have made converts, where converts were most to be desired, and have found warm advocates in such men as Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Mill. In the recent Reform Bill, which the Liberal party introduced last year, a great step was made, by Mr. Gladstone's advocacy of the grouping system, towards one of its great merits—the representation of persons and not of localities. It is, therefore, unjust to say that such a scheme is forgotten. It is only seemingly so. Whilst it finds strong advocates in such men as the members for Westminster and Brighton, and its great principle is directly supported, not in mere theory, but in practice, by the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, such a scheme, though little regarded by the public at large, is evidently silently leavening the thoughts and the actions of the greatest thinkers and workers of the day. The fact, too, that Mr. Hare's treatise has already, in spite of much adverse criticism, reached a third edition, shows that some general interest in it is at last being awakened. The great question with us is how far is liberal thought in England ripe for such a thorough revolution in our electoral system as Mr. Hare proposes. That we are ripe for some of Mr. Hare's principles of Reform is shown by the increasing attention that is given by political writers to the great question of the representation of minorities, which constitutes, in our opinion, one of the best guarantees in Mr. Hare's scheme that intelligence and worth shall not be outvoted by mere numbers; and further, by the fact of Mr. Gladstone's deliberate adoption of the plan, in his method of grouping boroughs, of personal instead of local representation. These are straws which show which way the political wind is blowing. These are tendencies which cannot be mistaken. And though it is a long cry to the political Loch Awe of electoral perfection, and though we have not the slightest expectation that we shall see, in our life-time at least, Mr. Hare's scheme adopted in its entirety, still, we think that as there are so many leaves in his book which might be taken with great advantage by Tory statesmen, it will not be waste of time to say a few words, at the present great crisis, upon a scheme which certainly cannot be charged with crudity of thought. Before, however, we enter upon its principles—for we cannot here go into the details of its working—let us say a word or two about the common objections against its elaborateness. "We cannot understand it," is constantly said. This arises, in short, not from the complexity of the system, but from the unprepared state of the hearer's mind. To use Mr. Hare's apt illustration, a Jacquard's loom or the steam-engine are simple in principle, but it would be impossible to convey by words, to a person who had never seen a Jacquard's loom or steam-engine, any other idea than that of enormous complexity of detail. As to those who urge the utter impracticability of such a scheme, the best answer is that a plan closely resembling that of Mr. Hare's has not only been tried but has worked well in Denmark. Having thus cleared the way, let us mention the chief characteristics of the scheme. In the first place, Mr. Hare sets the elector free. He not only does for him what the ballot-box, with all its objectionable accessories, would probably fail to do, but he gives him also, not as now, a mere partisanship in local politics, but a direct interest in the larger politics of the country. The elector is no longer biassed by local prejudices, but interested in the general welfare. This is the great principle of the scheme—the representation of individuals, and from this all the other results flow, the equalization of votes, the representation of minorities, the independence of members themselves, the absence of the present vicious system of middlemen and agents, and the uselessness of bribery. How this is effected we will endeavour to show. We have no need to go into all the various provisions which Mr. Hare has laid down, by which his principles are carried out. It will be enough to refer to a few of them in the most general terms. The number of votes by which members are to be returned to the House is obtained by dividing the number of electors by the number of members. Thus, for the sake of simplicity, to follow Mr. Fawcett in his admirably clear analysis of Mr. Hare's system, let us suppose that 650,000 electors have voted to return 650 members. Then, as Mr. Fawcett truly observes, "If a system of representation was framed on the principles of perfect justice, any candidate in the case we have above supposed ought to be returned if he obtained the votes of 1,000 electors." Of course, we need not say that these numbers are imaginary, and are only



here used for the purpose of illustration. This quota, then, of 1,000 votes must be obtained by each candidate to qualify him as a member. In this way, by one stroke, Mr. Hare does away with the present anomalous and unjust system by which one borough with 400 electors returns the same number of members as another with 4,000. All votes are thus equalized as to power. So far, then, with regard to the quantity and quality of votes. Now let us turn to the elector's altered position. Under the present system it is found that a great number of voters abstain from voting because they can find no local candidate in whom they have full confidence. The suffrage is thus often utterly wasted. Where Liberals hold a borough, a Tory vote is not only of no use to, but disheartens its owner; and the same despair of political justice takes effect upon a Liberal voter in a Tory stronghold. Mr. Hare boldly solves the difficulty, not by plurality of voting, or dual or cumulative votes, but by allowing each elector to vote for any of the 650 members he pleases. We will endeavour to make the matter plain. A voter, we will suppose resides at Exeter, which returns two members. Mr. A., Mr. B., and Mr. C. are candidates, but our imaginary elector has reasons to be dissatisfied with their principles, and will not vote for any of them. Under the present system his vote would be lost. Under Mr. Hare's scheme he may vote for Mr. D., who is a candidate at Bath, or Mr. E. at Bristol. In this way justice is done not only to the voter, but to Mr. D. or Mr. E., who without the aid of outside voters, such as the one we have imagined, could not, from the unpopularity of their views, or some other cause, possibly gain the required quota of 1,000 votes. In this way Mr. Hare not only does justice to the individual voter, but solves the problem of the representation of minorities. Thus, let us take the case of Mr. Lowe, who is probably at this moment the most unpopular man in the country. As he calls himself, he is "a political outcast." If Mr. Lowe, instead of representing the pocket-borough of Calne, were to offer himself for Birmingham, he would, under the present system of elections, be most undoubtedly rejected. This, we are free to say, in spite of Mr. Lowe's grievous political errors, would be a great loss to the House. Under Mr. Hare's scheme, however, he would be sure to find a quota of 1,000 Adullamites scattered throughout England. Such, in short, is Mr. Hare's system of the representation of minorities. And we have dwelt upon it, because just now so many schemes to attain the same object have been proposed. The cumulative vote is needlessly complicated. The plurality system of voting, and the dual vote tend not so much to give us the representation of minorities as in some cases to insure the total suppression of majorities.

Let us now turn to some other portions of Mr. Hare's scheme. All votes are given upon voting papers, supplied by the returning officers of the district, and are ultimately sent to a Registrar-General in London. We have already explained the case of a voter who found himself dissatisfied with the candidates for his own borough, and the way in which he would proceed to make his vote effective. We will now show some of the other results of Mr. Hare's system. In the first place, though personal representation is obtained, yet local interests are not overlooked. Thus, for instance, Mr. A. receives at Bristol his quota of 1,000 votes, but besides these he also receives 500 from other parts of the country. The former, however, count first, so that the member, whenever it is practicable, is directly returned by the electors of the city for which he has stood, and in which both he and they may naturally be supposed to take the greatest interest. Again, under Mr. Hare's scheme no vote is ever lost. Thus, we will suppose that Mr. B. is elected at Norwich by a majority of 500 votes over the necessary quota of 1,000, each of the 1,500 polling-papers are examined, and 1,000 containing the fewest number of other candidates are appropriated to Mr. B. The votes on the remaining 500 papers are then utilized according to the order in which each elector has selected his candidate. Such are some of the leading features of Mr. Hare's celebrated scheme. Of course, in a newspaper article it is impossible to go into details. This is rather the duty of our quarterly reviews. But from the very brief sketch which we have given of its leading principles, it will be at once seen that they introduce a complete revolution of ideas into our system of Parliamentary representation. Whether the public mind is ripe for them is a question we are not prepared to answer. One thing, however, is certain, that though Mr. Hare's scheme has attracted but little attention in the present political turmoil and strife of parties, and though the majority of even well-educated Englishmen are completely ignorant of its bearings, yet not only on the Continent has it found advocates, but in the United States and New South Wales. Our only object here

has been to call attention to, not to defend its leading principles. To those, however, who are still indifferent to its merits, we will quote Mill's weighty words:—"Mr. Hare's Bill has exactly, and for the first time, solved the difficulty of representation, and by so doing has cleared up the gloom and uncertainty which hung over the futurity of representative government, and therefore of civilization."

#### THE ITALIAN ELECTIONS.

THE elections for the Italian Parliament have resulted, so far as they have gone, in a much more satisfactory manner than could have been anticipated. Notwithstanding the advantage which Baron Ricasoli's errors and want of tact gave to his opponents, they have been signally defeated. General Garibaldi has received innumerable "ovations," but they have been barren triumphs. His political tour has ended in a second Aspromonte, and although every one will rejoice that the hero goes back scatheless to his island retreat at Caprera, the true friends of Italy will be equally glad that he has failed to attain the object with which he left it. However objectionable may have been some of the measures and portions of the policy of the present Government, it is clear that nothing but evil could have followed their displacement in favour of a Ministry selected from "the party of action." Italy requires at the present moment repose from political agitation, and the ascendancy of a party quite as intolerant in their way as the clerical faction are in theirs, must have led to the prolongation and to the exacerbation of internal strife. It is all very well to cry "death to the priests," and to denounce every kind of compromise with the Church; but although so summary a policy may fall in with the passions of the moment, it would be fertile in future embarrassments. Against all violent action there is certain to be an equally violent reaction, and the Church is not so powerless, amidst one of the most thoroughly Catholic populations in Europe, as to be unable to trouble, even if she could not overthrow, those who trample upon her. The basis of accommodation laid down by Ricasoli may or may not be false; but it is certain that his leading idea is a sound one, and that it is only by pursuing a policy of compromise and conciliation that the controversy between Church and State can be set at rest, the Roman question receive a satisfactory solution, and Italy be set free to develop her resources and to complete her organization. We construe the recent elections as a proof that that is the view of the more intelligent and thoughtful part of the population, rather than as a declaration in favour of the particular measure of the Government which led to the dissolution. Indeed, the scheme by which Ricasoli proposed to realize Cavour's idea of a free Church in a free State has been condemned on all hands, and it is admitted that it must receive great modifications before it can be again submitted to Parliament. Whatever might be its intrinsic merits, if it were to be carried out in a new country, the Italians are convinced that it would never work in an old society, where the ramifications of ecclesiastical influence are as extensive as they are deeply rooted. They will never listen to any proposition which emancipates the Church from the control of the State so long as the temporal power remains in existence, and the Pope can set in motion from Rome a powerful agency distributed over the whole country. On these points their opinion admits of no doubt. It has been clearly pronounced, and it must govern the action of any Ministry which may be in office. But the very fact that Ricasoli, with the best intentions, committed a serious blunder, places in the strongest light the prudence and common sense of the constituencies who have seen that to place power in the hands of the extreme party was not the way to remedy it. The people are at bottom better than their leaders. They have, as has happened before, retrieved the blunders of those whom they had rashly intrusted with power. No doubt the number of electors in Italy is very small compared to the population, but when we consider what influences adverse to the Government were at work, it is surprising that they should have so completely failed to produce any effect. Besides the incendiary harangues of Garibaldi, there was the discontent produced by the unfortunate conduct of the late war, the suffering of the people from a failure of crops, and in Piedmont the irritation arising from the transfer of the capital to Florence. In spite of all, the Government, or rather the Moderate party, have won a complete victory; and will be much stronger in the next than they were in the late Parliament. So far as we have the returns up to the present moment, out of 88 candidates returned, 66 are favourable to the Government, while 22 belong to the Opposition. In 156 other elections a



second polling was requisite, in consequence of none of the candidates having obtained the requisite majority; but on the first vote, 108 of the ministerial candidates for these colleges had obtained considerably more votes than their opponents. If we turn to particular elections, the result is still more striking. Garibaldi seems to have been nominated for six colleges. He was defeated in four; and in three at least of these the defeat was ignominious. In Florence he had only 97 votes, to Ricasoli's 963; in Bologna 83, to Popoli's 488; and in Milan 144, against 786 for Zenca. In addition to Garibaldi, three other leaders of the Opposition were beaten at Florence, one at Leghorn, another at Milan; and the Piedmontese elections have gone generally in favour of the Government, notwithstanding that there was a factious combination between the Conservative and the Republican parties. There is little reason to fear that the elections which have yet to take place will not result in an equally favourable manner; and that Italy may be congratulated upon having escaped a great calamity. But it must not be forgotten that that satisfactory result has been attained at a great cost. For several weeks the urgent work of legislation has been suspended; and during the same period the ever-growing financial deficit has been permitted to accumulate. Some further time will still be lost in the clumsy and tedious process of "the verification of powers," by which Continental assemblies persist in commencing their sittings. At the end of that time we trust Parliament will set vigorously to work. Before they separate something must be done towards a settlement of the relations between Church and State, and towards the restoration of the financial equilibrium.

A remarkable speech, which was delivered during the elections, by Ratazzi, is pregnant with valuable suggestions, and is entitled to the highest praise for the spirit by which it is pervaded. We have no great admiration for his past career, but he is a man of unquestionable ability; and now that the temptation to play into the hands of France is in a great measure removed, it is probable that he may do useful service to the country either as the successor or the colleague of Ricasoli. A coalition between these statesmen has been more than once talked of, and it would undoubtedly strengthen the existing Government both in administrative skill and in debating power. Their differences of opinion are not such as should prevent them acting together; and if Ratazzi would carry out in office the views which he avows as an independent member, the sooner he is in power the better. He rightly places the financial question in the foreground of his remarks. The situation, he tells his constituents, is simply disastrous. In spite of the fresh taxes that have been imposed, there is a deficit of almost 200 millions. For this a remedy must be found; and he has no difficulty in deciding what that shall be. In the most energetic manner he repudiates the idea of diminishing the burdens of the country by a breach of faith towards its creditors, and his expressions on this point are so pointed and so emphatic that they are worth quoting at a time when the unfortunate dispute about the guarantee given to the Italian Irrigation Company has cast a doubt upon the financial honour of his country. After stating that the growth of the indirect taxes can be but slow, he proceeds:—"In order that it may become important, the national wealth must be developed, trade and industry—and especially agricultural industry—must prosper. But this cannot prosper without capital, and capital will not be forthcoming if confidence be not restored and credit re-established." Fresh taxes, he says, cannot be imposed, because the country can bear no additional burdens. What, then, is to be done? Practice economy. The army and navy are both far larger and more expensive than the country requires, or than is justified by the circumstances. Italy has no cause to contemplate war; and a large reduction of her armaments is not only demanded by the state of the treasury, but as a pledge to Europe that she desires to live at peace with all nations. Another great saving may be effected in the cost of tax-collection, which is at present conducted on the most extravagant and wasteful scale. A still further reduction of expenditure would result from decentralizing the Administration, and thus getting rid of a host of Government functionaries. With some minor savings, through which it is unnecessary to follow him, Ratazzi calculates that the expenditure might be reduced from seventy to seventy-five million francs below the point at which it was fixed by the late budget of Signor Scialoja. There would still, however, remain a deficit of 120 millions, which must continue for some years, until the gradual growth of the revenue fills up the gap. That must be supplied by a temporary expedient; and it is equally clear that the expedient should not be one which will in the end entail an augmentation of the public burdens. Against all loans Ratazzi sets his face resolutely, and there can be no doubt

that he is right, for none could at present be effected except on ruinous terms, and without serious danger to Italian credit. On the other hand, that credit will be proportionately improved if it is seen that by resolute economy, and by boldly availing herself of the resources within her power, the country can meet her engagements, and pay her way without foreign assistance. The Church lands are, we need scarcely say, the source to which he looks for the requisite funds, and in his opinion their sale can be made far more profitable to the State than it would have been under the provisions of Ricasoli's abortive measure. Finally, he declares that freedom for the Church is out of the question so long as the Pope reigns in Rome. So long as his Holiness will insist upon retaining temporal authority he must submit to his bishops and clergy being treated in Italy as the agents of a foreign and perhaps hostile Power. Such is the programme of a statesman whom it is not unjust to describe as a candidate—and probably he will be a successful candidate—for power. It does not shirk the difficulties of the situation; and it points out a course of decisive action on which the speaker invited his countrymen to enter. It is in these important respects free from the characteristic vices of Italian schemes of policy, which are apt to slur over disagreeable truths, to "cook" unpleasant figures, to postpone radical but arduous measures. There is, however, reason to believe that the country is heartily sick of the manner in which its interests have been too long trifled with. And the Government ought to have sufficient strength in the new Chamber to overcome the factious intrigues, and cut short the endless debates, which have heretofore frittered away the time and consumed the energies of Parliament. If the majority which is just returned share the opinions of Ratazzi, and are prepared to enter upon a course of rigid economy and strict financial honesty, to maintain a firm, but, at the same time, a conciliatory attitude towards the Church, and to keep strictly before them the development of the resources of the country, Italy may reasonably hope to surmount her present embarrassments within a moderate period, and to enter upon the enjoyment of that prosperity which the abundant gifts of nature are calculated to bestow upon her.

#### MR. GLADSTONE AND THE TRADES' UNIONS.

"WHATEVER is permitted by law ought to entail no legal grievance." Mr. Gladstone is reported to have used these words to a deputation which a few days ago waited upon him respecting the late decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, which deprives the funds of a trade's union of all legal protection. They would seem to amount to a truism, but that decision shows that they do not. It presents us with the singular position that an institution may be at once legal and illegal, and that the law which Parliament has made may be overridden by that made by the judges. Little more than forty years ago the combination of labourers was prohibited by the Legislature under severe penalties. In 1825 the restriction was abolished, and its penalties with it. It was made lawful for labourers to combine, and the privilege was everywhere turned to account. But in 1867 they learn that they are liable to a very heavy penalty, inasmuch as they may be robbed with impunity. Thus, what is permitted by law may entail legal grievance. A trade's union is held to operate in restraint of trade. Against this defect it is vain to plead an Act of the Legislature sanctioning such union. Parliament, which, in the interests of capital, has created monopolies that operate in restraint of trade, which, to go no further, enacted the Corn Laws, is powerless to sanction a combination in the interests of labour. It does not matter that not a tenth, perhaps not even a twentieth, of the funds of a trade's union go to support men on strike, nor that their main objects are of a purely benevolent character. One of their objects is supposed to have a restrictive operation upon the interests of trade, and this vitiates the whole affair. It would be easy to contest the position here advanced, and to show that one of the most important interests of trades is the proper remuneration of the operative, who has, at all events, as much right as the employer to judge what is proper remuneration and what is not. Regarded from this point of view, trades' unions are protective of trade, and, so far, encourage rather than restrain it. Whether the power thus created is at all times wisely exercised is another matter, and is quite beside the question at issue. Unless we are altogether to ignore the producer, and to consult only the interests of the employer and the purchaser, we must reject the theory that an association operates in restraint of trade which enables the labourer to stand out against his employer for what he conceives to be his due reward.



But how far is this "very large phrase," as Mr. Gladstone called it—the "restraint of trade"—to extend? He referred to a rule which at one time existed amongst wholesale publishers as to the terms of discount upon which alone they would consent to supply the retailer. The rule had been given up, but while it existed it was clearly in restraint of trade, and he put the case whether, on that account, a wholesale publisher could, with impunity, have been defrauded by a retailer who refused to pay for a parcel of books which had been delivered to him under that rule? The monopoly which the Great Northern Railway Company has of carrying coal, operates in restraint of trade; so does the excessive preserving of game. Yet the Great Eastern Railway Company dare not bring coals to London, nor could a poacher plead in his defence the late judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench. But the law which sanctions the monopoly in the former case, and the preserving of game in the latter, is not stranger than that which enacts that neither masters nor workmen shall be liable to any prosecution or punishment whatever for combining to lower, raise, or fix the rate of wages; or to increase, lessen, or alter, the hours of working; or to regulate the mode of carrying on any manufacture, trade, or business. Prior to the Act 5 Geo. IV., c. 95, combinations amongst artificers to raise the price of wages were punishable with fine or imprisonment on bread and water, and, after a third offence, with the pillory, loss of one ear, and perpetual infamy. But if there is now no penalty there is no offence, and where there is no offence there should be no disability. Before the statute above quoted, it was an offence to exercise a trade in any town without having previously served as an apprentice for seven years, some detriment to trade being apprehended from a supposed want of skill in the trader. The ground on which the offence was based is as good now that this law has been repealed as it was before; but surely no judge would think of depriving such a trader of his right to recover against a customer because he might presume a detriment to trade from the trader's not having served seven years as an apprentice? When the Act 5 Geo. IV., c. 95, repealed the statutes which made it an offence to combine to raise wages, when it even went so far as to say that no workman should be prosecuted for combining to induce another to refuse to enter into service, or depart from it before the end of the term for which he is hired, or to quit or return his work before it is finished, so long as there was no resort to violence or threats, surely it cannot be pretended that the Legislature did not mean to sanction such combinations; or that when it said that they should not be liable to prosecution, it also meant that they should still be unlawful.

The late judgment strikes at the root of the whole principle of combination; and if it is to stand, there is really no reason in law why the Government should not refuse to return to the trades' unions the sums they have deposited in the Government savings banks, in which £40,000 stands to the credit of a single union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. Would it be good policy, even if it were possible, to return to the state of things which existed prior to 1825; or, contrasting that state of things with what we see before us now, can we doubt that the principles of combination have tended immensely to the benefit of trade, have improved the character of the working classes, have educated them morally and intellectually, have won from them a guarantee of good citizenship by conferring upon them a larger share of its rights? Why should these principles, conceded to others, be refused to the working classes? Lawyers combine to keep their profession to themselves, and to prescribe the etiquette which shall regulate the conduct of its practitioners. So it is in the medical profession; so it is amongst all classes having special interests. And Parliament more or less sanctions these combinations by express enactments. Next to an attempt to deny them to the working classes, the most impolitic thing is to invest them with an uncertain character, neither illegal nor yet quite legal—a right grudgingly conceded, and not conceded in its integrity. But it is not only impolitic, it is absurd. At this moment we are threatened with a strike of 20,000 engine-drivers and firemen, and on two lines, the North-Eastern and the London, Brighton, and South Coast, the rupture is complete. During the last ten years we have seen several hundred thousand men out on strike; and though this mode of redressing grievances, real or supposed, is clumsy and costly—a sort of cutting off the nose to be revenged upon the face—it is at present the only means of redressing the natural inequality between labour and capital, made more unequal by the fact that capital is so overwhelmingly represented in the House of Commons, while the share of the working classes in the representation has declined rather than increased. Can we conceive anything more absurd than that while recognising or winking at the vast organizations by

which one trade after another is in its turn convulsed, the law denies them the right of bringing to justice a trustee who has swindled them out of part of their funds?

Such a policy is vexatious and fruitless. Whatever legal reasons may be advanced in support of the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, it is contrary to common sense. Mr. Gladstone, looking at it as conveyed to him by the statement of the deputation, confessed that he could not understand it. Quite so. Except from a merely legal point of view, it is unintelligible. But what is the worth of law which has not the support of reason, which, on the contrary, is in diametric opposition to reason? And what good result do we expect from inflicting a disability upon trades' unions? If strikes are feared, will there be one strike the less because the trustee of a trade's union may rob it with impunity? Who, or what, is to be benefited by the late decision? Not the masters—not the interests of trade. Who then? As far as we can see, only the defaulting trustees. As long as it was supposed that trades' unions were things which ought to be, or which could be, put down, we can understand why severe penalties against them were retained upon the Statute-book. Some one profited, or were believed to profit, by the terror conveyed in those penalties. But no one in these days is insane enough to believe that we can meddle with the combinations of the working classes, or clog them in their efforts to contend with capital upon equal terms. Nor would any wise man wish to do so. If we are really in danger of losing any considerable portion of our trade through the operation of strikes, we should be in danger of a still greater loss if we endeavoured to prevent them. One of the deputation told Mr. Gladstone that the union he represented was a corresponding society, holding communication with many foreign countries. The object of this correspondence is well known. It is in order to ascertain the best markets for labour. We all saw that during the civil war in America the sympathies of our working classes were with the Northern States; and it is mainly to these States that our trades' unions send out agents to report upon the most advantageous outlets for English labour. It is thus possible that we may lose the men whose industry constitutes our trade and our wealth. And it stands to reason that everything which lowers their position, which seems to reflect contemptuously upon them, or which lessens their rights or clogs the exercise of those rights, will tend to diminish their attachment to a country which slights while it makes use of them, and induce them to turn their steps towards one in which labour is allowed its natural dignity and its full rights.

#### INCENTIVES TO FENIANISM.

FENIANISM is a very will-o'-the-wisp. It cannot be caught. Neither at Chester or Liverpool, Kerry or Tipperary, Kilmallock or Dublin, does it show the slightest disposition to await capture. Hundreds—nay, thousands—of Fenians are seen in a body, on a hill or in the plain. When the hill or plain is reached by her Majesty's troops, whether of constabulary or the line, the Fenians disappear—like the O'Donoghue of the Glens into Killarney Lake, arms, accoutrements, and all—and leave behind a few swords or rifles just to provoke a continued pursuit. Here and there, indeed, a few police barracks are attacked, and a few Fenians drop, a house or two is visited, and a man or two shot, by these scoundrels in their searches for arms. But as an army the Fenian host is contemptible. In Kerry a policeman thought himself a match for it; and a priest set it at defiance, and turned it from its way. Near Dublin half a dozen constables engaged and routed it, without the loss of a man. There is no doubt, however, that Fenianism is able to give occupation in marching and counter-marching to as many of the Queen's soldiers as are likely to be spared from service elsewhere. General Horsford and Lord Straithnairn are likely to have a busy time of it; and the troops under their command in Ireland will have many a weary and fagging tramp over the Toomies or the Gaulties before ever they stamp out, or even catch, the Fenian imposture, which flits hither and thither, apparently without aim or purpose. It is all very well for her Majesty to maintain a standing army in Ireland, and perhaps the expenditure attendant upon it may be some compensation to the Irish for the loss of capital in other ways; but it is evident that a standing army which is never allowed to stand, but is kept ever on the move, is rather too expensive a toy for even the British Parliament to maintain. Perpetual motion will destroy soldiers more effectually than Greek fire or Fenian pikes. Besides, the English army will never destroy Fenianism, which is not altogether of home



growth. Fenianism will be imported into Ireland from America as long as it suits the interests of New York rowdies and American adventurers of all kinds to keep alive the *ignis fatuus* which leads English statesmen metaphorically, and English soldiers actually, so sorry a dance over bogs, mountains, and wastes. Fenianism can only be stopped by removing the grievances which give it vitality, just as the will-o'-the-wisp can only be banished by draining away the fetid water of the bog. Reclaim the morass, and there will be no *ignis fatuus*. Remove Irish grievances and there will be no Fenianism. Of course there are grievances in Ireland which no one can comprehend, but not the less are there some grievances which are unfortunately only too patent to the world. Take the district, for instance, where Fenianism first showed itself, namely, the tract which reaches from near Valentia to Killarney. The Church grievance in that district is truly a disgrace to civilization. In all Kerry the State Church numbers but 6,200 Anglicans, against 195,159 Roman Catholics, and the minority of three per cent. have forty or fifty incumbents enjoying the entire Church revenues of the diocese. But in the district itself which we have marked there are not many parsons, and few as they are they contain amongst them precious samples of Anglican clergymen. There is the eccentric parson at one place, the drunken at another, the hunting variety at a third post, and a downright lunatic at a fourth. To mend matters, a few of the agents and small landlords in the locality have taken to preaching and proselytizing on their own account. Take next, the land grievance in Kerry. Whole tracts of that county are held under absentee proprietors, whose agents belong partly to one family clique, and have been mostly trained in the same offices. Their system is almost perfect in the diabolical ingenuity with which they inclose the unfortunate occupier of their masters' land in a network from which he can hardly escape. No leases are granted to the farmers, but all transactions are regulated by "the rules of the estate," which form a code, drawn up by the agents, with clauses concerning tillage and pasture, rotation of crops, and every conceivable item which can harass the tenant. If, contrary to these rules, he cuts a meadow or turf, sells straw, or breaks up a field which he himself most likely has laid down in grass, he violates these rules, and is at the mercy of the agent to fine and fleece at his pleasure. If he marries without license from the agent he is similarly liable to ejection or an increased rent. Thus the tenant can call neither his soul or body his own. The laws are administered by the same hands which framed the "rules," for on the bench of county magistrates sit the agents themselves as representatives of the absent landlords. So great is the influence and wealth of these agents that they are not unfrequently found to be not only magistrates but deputy-lieutenants of the counties wherein they reside. Now the land question is a deep one, which cannot be solved in a day. It is evident, however, that legislation should not encourage landlord absenteeism, by permitting proprietors of estates to put their agents into the magisterial chair. The administration of justice should not be suffered to remain an hour in the hands of the factors or managers of those noblemen and gentlemen who are wholly or in part absentees. A law abolishing ejection except for non-payment of rent, and another law giving to tenants without a lease a tenure of five years, to date from notices to quit, would perhaps check the propensity of Irish landlords to turn out farmers who vote at elections adversely to the wishes of the agents. Anyhow, the Church grievance should be at once removed. Let what will become, eventually, of the Church revenues of Ireland, the present incumbents should be at once stripped of their local and territorial titular rank, and the smallest relic of religious ascendancy should be carefully sought out and taken away. Parsons like those in Kerry, with nothing to do, should be forthwith pensioned off, and permitted to hunt, fish, shoot, or amuse themselves in attempts at proselytism, on their own responsibility, and not that of the State. The present ecclesiastical settlement of Ireland, which is utterly unjustifiable, should be thoroughly changed, and the Church property should revert to the original purpose for which it was granted, namely, the religious instruction of the people, who are Roman Catholics, and have been so from time immemorial. If some determination is shown by the Legislature to redress those grievances as to which there can be no second opinion, Fenianism will receive a greater blow than any which can be inflicted by British troops. Were the disendowment of the Established Church anomaly announced to-morrow by the Minister of the Crown, her Majesty would receive an ovation of loyalty from one end of Ireland to the other. We do not mean to damp the ardour of our soldiers, but we feel that neither honour nor profit can result from the capture or slaughter of any number of Fenian

dupes. By all means let the Fenians be caught, and if they fight let them be killed. But let the pabulum on which Fenianism feeds be at the same time removed, and let the grievances which nurture it be remedied. In this way only can we hope to keep Fenianism from becoming a chronic nuisance, and Ireland from the misery of being both a constant hotbed of imported treason and a perpetual camp.

#### OUR MILITARY WANTS.

RESPECTING the military wants of this empire, there are two creeds which find acceptance in England. The one—believed in by peers, country gentlemen, and others whose sons chiefly officer the army—lays down that the less we reform the service the better for the country; that our regiments should consist of two distinct races of men—those who command and such as are commanded; that the chasm between these ranks should never be bridged over; that promotion amongst our officers should not be by merit, by seniority, nor according to any new-fangled system, but according to the balance which the candidate for advancement has at his banker's, and by that alone. The use of our army during times of peace they believe to be, not that it should prepare for war, but that it may serve as a gentlemanly occupation for young men during the years which intervene between their leaving school or college, and their settling down to the more serious engagements of life. This creed is popular with very many officers of the army. They look upon their profession as one in which the chief employments are to hunt, wear becoming plain clothes, lounge about garrison towns, bet upon the great racing events, and support a good mess. They, too, regard promotion by purchase as a holy institution, and one which none but the most outrageous radicals would ever dream of doing away with. Its abolition they believe would introduce "snobs"—which, with them, mean men who have little or no money—into the service, and thus generally to make the army a *profession*, which is exactly what they would by all means avoid. If mention is made of what might be required of troops on service, these gentlemen reply that it is time enough to think of all that when we are obliged to do so, that the officers of all foreign armies are without regimental messes, or without regimental plate; that they appear at all times in their uniforms, and may be classified generally under the denomination of "cads." In short, that the English army as it is cannot be improved upon, and that any reform would only deform the service.

On the other hand, there are very many persons—including nearly all reasoning men—who think that the military shortcomings of England are so great and so complicated as to call for an entire reorganization of the army. They believe that we have not yet solved the problem how to keep as large a force as possible ready for the service of the country, without drawing too largely on the industrious classes. They are convinced, from recent events on the battle-fields of Europe, that, to use the words of a daily contemporary, "a war is no longer a series of campaigns extending over several years, with fluctuating fortunes and convenient leisure for each side to complete its preparations and repair any deficiencies of equipment with which it entered into the conflict." They are fully aware that, to borrow again the words of the same paper, "war has become a sudden grapple between the combatants, each hurling itself with a concentrated effort against the other, and striving every nerve for a quick, decisive victory." With these convictions, and knowing, as we have already pointed out in these columns, that whereas we pay in round numbers fifteen millions sterling—rather more than less—for 150,000 effective men, with 14,000 horses, and the French pay half a million less for 400,000 men, with upwards of 100,000 horses, it is not unnatural for the majority of tax-paying Englishmen, who give the subject any thought, to say that as it exists at present the army is an expensive luxury, and much more ornamental than useful. For personal courage, for patience under privations, and for tough, bulldog-like pluck that returns again and again to the combat, and never seems to know when it is beaten, we can boast that our men and officers are second to none, and equalled by few, in the world. But in these days of breech-loaders, rifled cannon, steam transports, and field telegraphs, the battle is to the swift and the numerous, more than to the brave and the enduring; and it is but too true to say that our present military reorganization is utterly unfitted for any great emergency.

It was not, therefore, surprising that General Peel's last official speech, in which he explained the army estimates for the current year, should have been looked forward to with some anxiety, still less that it should have caused such very general disappointment. As a prospectus of what we may expect in



the shape of military reorganization, the gallant officer simply treated the House to an elaborate lecture upon the art of how not to do it. It is true that the soldier is to have 2d. more a day during his service, and 3d. more when he re-engages in the army, and that we are to have a semi-militia half-regular reserve of 25,000 men, which, by the way, is to cost us half a million sterling. But will any one who knows the precise wants of the service believe that the former will materially cause our ranks to fill, or that the latter would be found equal to any emergencies in time of real need? It would hardly be correct to say that General Peel's scheme is utterly wanting in the remedies most required at the present day, but his cobbling alterations cannot be deemed a reform in any sense of the word. The chief complaints of our officers and soldiers are that they are called to serve too long out of England; that the period of enlistment is too long; and that no one of the rank and file, however good his education or excellent his conduct, can hope to rise in the service, as it is only by the payment of large sums of money that promotion beyond the very junior commissioned ranks can be obtained. If General Peel had modified the first and second of these evils, and totally abolished the third, he might have reduced the English army by ten thousand men, and yet have had it far stronger, because infinitely more popular, than at present. What we require in England is not an immense standing force, but a great number of trained men ready to spring to arms if called upon. To effect this—to have at our call some two or three hundred thousand civilian soldiers, who, although working at their respective callings, are ready, willing, as well as liable to shoulder their rifles if required—we should, to borrow an expression of the day, endeavour to "pass through the ranks" the best men of our population by voluntary enlistment, just as France performs the same operation by means of the conscription. As our army is at present constituted, this is utterly impossible. No man who has any hope for the future would ever enlist for ten years—now increased by General Peel's so-called scheme to twelve—the whole of which he might have to serve in India, or some equally unhealthy climate. Instead of increasing the term of enlistment from ten to twelve years, if it had been reduced to five, and if, as in the French army, any young man who took kindly to the calling, who could pass certain examinations, and was correct in his conduct, could reckon with tolerable certainty that seven or eight years would see him a commissioned officer, the recruits—from a very different class than those who are now caught—would seek the enlisting sergeant by the score, instead of the latter having to look for them. There are in England hundreds of young men—sons of tradesmen, of professional gentlemen, and others—of good education, who would like nothing better than a five years' "spree" in the army, and would enjoy it all the better if it caused them to see foreign parts. Of these many, no doubt, would return home at the end of their five years of service, but a great number would like the work, would hope and expect promotion, and would remain with their corps. We might increase the expenses of transport to and from India or the colonies, but with a better class of men we should have far less crime, and we should be able to save in our military prison expenditure more than we paid in conveying time-expired men back to England after their first engagement was over. Moreover, it might be easily arranged by a more general use of our East and West Indian native troops in the colonies, that the term of service abroad should be reduced to a maximum of five years, during which, if a soldier could save enough to pay half his passage home, the Government would pay the other half, and he might be granted six months furlough to his native place. But above all, and before all, the abolition of the purchase system should take place. Until that is done, all other reforms are but so many useless patchings. The French promote their officers, partly by seniority, and partly by merit or selection—the proportion being one of the former to two of the latter. In our own navy the promotion is altogether by selection, and—save in exceptional cases like the recent instance of the Honourable Mr. Yorke being promoted to Commander because he was the son of a Tory peer—it is now very rare indeed to hear that any great injustice has been committed when any promotion is made. But, justice or injustice, any system would be preferable, any scheme more honourable to the English army, than that which makes a certain balance at his banker's the test of an officer's promotion. If a better scheme than the latter could not be devised, our military authorities must be more wanting in brains than their worst enemies give them credit for.

General Peel's programme has another great fault—one unfortunately but too common with gentlemen of his profession and of his political creed—it lulls into security those

who are but superficially "up" in the statistics and wants of the army. They believed there was something wrong in the general system of our military administration, but, John Bull like, they think that having to pay more money will put everything right. It is to be hoped that they may not be practically undeceived before some real statesman has the head to understand, and the courage to deal with this question. Out of a hundred average Englishmen of the upper and middle classes, ninety either believe that our army is in need of no reform, or that all alterations which are required had been made by the late Secretary at War. Whereas, if they could only investigate the question with the same sound common sense by which they rule their ordinary business transactions, it would not take long to convince them that we are paying every year fifteen millions sterling per annum for that which ought not to cost us half that sum; that our ranks are only recruited from the "roughs" of the community; that our military authorities regard the army chiefly as a finishing school for the sons of the landed gentry and wealthy men; and that a poor officer has about as much chance of advancement—no matter what his professional merits may be—as he has of becoming a bank director. In a word, that the whole of our military system is made up of abuses and monopolies, and that the slightest attempt to introduce any real reform into the service is either resisted to the death, or met with a plausible sham like that which General Peel put forth, and which his admirers have had the effrontery to call a military reorganization. The wants and urgent necessities of the army are quite as numerous and quite as little cared for as they were before we went to the Crimea, and in a similar emergency we should witness a like result.

#### VIVIAN GREY'S MYSTERIES.

"He made his father acquainted with his feelings, but concealed from him his actual views." Such is the account given in that well-known compendium of political morality, "Vivian Grey," of the hero's behaviour to his own father. Mystery is Vivian's grand secret. The human voice is to him nothing, if not an instrument with which to deceive. The greatest authors exist for no other purpose than to have their names borrowed for false quotations. Men's vices must be humoured, if they will serve a purpose, and their most sacred sorrows turned into stepping-stones. Such is the theory of politics enunciated in "Vivian Grey." And Mr. Disraeli has, during the last week, been faithful to the creed which he promulgated more than forty years ago. Everybody is to be mystified and juggled. He is, after all, only playing the same old character which he has so often enacted—when he stood a sort of political hybrid for High Wycombe, and was proposed by a Liberal and seconded by a Tory, and when he brought forward his wonderful budget in which he promised one thing to the Conservatives, and another to the Whigs. "Qualis ab incepto" is the one motto to which Mr. Disraeli is alone true. As he acted with his notorious budget, so is he acting with his Reform Bill. He says one thing to the Radicals, and another to the Tories, and mystifies both. He comforts the former with hints about household suffrage, and reassures the latter with promises of checks and counterchecks; but as far as action goes, he has done nothing. He has simply fed all parties with mysteries. A month he has passed away in fishing for a policy, then baiting his hooks afresh, in squabbles with his own friends, humiliations before his opponents, piteous supplications for mercy to all parties, and, finally, in promises. Such are some of the fruits of mystery. "Bate me some, and I will pay you some, and, as most do, promise you infinitely," is the Chancellor of the Exchequer's piteous cry. But though we are all of us quite aware that he will promise infinitely, we do not even now know what he is going to bate for his own friends the Tories, or what he is going to pay to the Liberals. We are now within a few hours of the day when the Tory Reform Bill will be disclosed, and we really know no more about its principles than we did when the Session commenced. Of course, there are all kinds of rumours. Every day in the present week was distinguished by its own political rumour. Monday was given up to the discussion of the system of plurality voting. On Tuesday dual voting was chiefly heard of. On Wednesday we came back to our old friend the cumulative vote. So the week wore away. Reading the newspapers was a curious study. The Ministerial papers, where we might have expected to have found some ray of intelligence, appeared to know less than any other. Our Liberal daily contemporaries occupied themselves with discussing every conceivable "new-fangled scheme," to use Mr. Gladstone's phrase, which it was thought possible Mr. Disraeli might adopt. But the *Times* was the most curious



study of all. That paper suddenly became more bewildered than usual. On Monday it came forward with an article enlogizing the proceedings of the Government. The writer, indeed, owned that it was a remarkable phenomenon that men who, nine months ago, denounced a £7 rental franchise as revolutionary, were now suddenly made converts to household suffrage. The *Times*, however, solved the difficulty, by assuring us that the change had been wrought by conscientious convictions. When we remember that the *Times* itself, nine months ago, also denounced the Liberal Reform Bill, we must suppose that its writers, too, have been convinced by conscientious motives. It saw, of course, no immorality in the proceeding. The paper that defended Mr. Disraeli's plagiarism in his oration upon the death of the Duke of Wellington, is now, we suppose, ready to defend him when he appropriates for his own use Liberal measures, which he had a short time before denounced. On Tuesday the *Times*, alarmed by what it had done the previous day, was silent on the Government policy, and fell back on its old tactics of abusing Earl Russell, when it has nothing to say. On Wednesday, however, it recovered its spirits and Monday's cue, and came forward with a defence of the cumulative vote. This was the last new thing which rumour said Mr. Disraeli had made up his mind to adopt. This was the last "dark horse" which has been let out from the Government stable. We are not here going to discuss either the cumulative or the dual, or the plural system of voting; but we must say that the sudden attachment of the *Times* to its new hobby is one of the most wonderful political changes on record. It is as wonderful as Mr. Disraeli's own remarkable double conversion from a free trader of the Bolingbroke type to the protectionist of the Lord George Bentinck order, and then back again, in his budget, from a protectionist to a modern free trader. Is this change in the *Times*' policy, too, brought about only by the sheer force of conscientious convictions? Or must we regard it in the more prosaic light of a further attempt to mystify us? As to Mr. Disraeli's plans, we do not believe he knows what he is going to do himself. In his attempt to mystify and mislead everybody, he has only mystified and misled himself and his party. He has, during the last four weeks so often changed and chopped from one principle to another, that we believe, till the very last moment, that his Reform Bill will be like his own Vivian Grey's receipt for punch. "Mr. Vivian Grey, Mr. Vivian Grey!" said his lordship, returning, 'you'll not forget the receipt you promised me for making tomahawk punch.' 'Certainly not, my lord,' said the young man; 'only it must be invented first,' thought Vivian." And Mr. Disraeli's Reform Bill must be invented first before we can with any certainty discuss the merits of its principles. 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THE recent modification of the law in France, by which the edifice of its liberties is said to have been crowned, has excited considerable sensation among the French press. Already a convocation of provincial editors has taken place in Paris, and one too impatient Parisian editor has suffered fine and bidden "adieu to the Empire" which he helped to found. After that there is only a possibility of the empire's continuance.

But to pass over M. de Girardin, we can imagine what may be the feelings of a large number of the gentlemen who wield the pen. They cannot but know that the press has seen worse days, and recalling the memory of the evil times gone by, they must confess to a certain sentiment of relief, if not of joy. If the contrast of the present with the immediate past be not extreme, yet when it is compared with the past of a century ago, or even less, the difference is immense. And what is peculiarly to be remarked is that the press has been gradually, little by little, enfranchised from the proscription and heavy trammels which fettered its free action. The present relaxation may be welcomed as a symptom of the continuance of the same law of progressive development. It is true that there have been instances of abrupt transition from bondage to license during the intervals of revolutionary frenzy which seized the country; but these once over, the press was relegated to nearly the same place which it had occupied before. Steadily, however, its influence extended, with the extension of political education and liberal ideas, until it became a power—although a controlled power—in the State. New competitors constantly sprung up to contest the palm of popularity with the old-established papers, and taking a more advanced position, compelled, by the force of competition, the onward march of the whole press in the struggle for literary life.

On looking back, we see from what a microscopic seed this tree of a thousand branches has had to arise. Delightful letters, long and pointedly written, giving all the scandal of the court and insinuating knowledge of State secrets used, it is well known, to be so much sought after that they were rarely expected to be kept private by the writer's correspondents. They were sure to be passed from hand to hand through a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The demand, however, exceeded the supply, and something which should by its anonymity give greater freedom to the author, was desired and invented. Little bulletins, handbills, then called "Nouvelles à la Main," made their appearances, and were mysteriously handed about. They gave duly spiced accounts of that life unknown to the people—the life and actions of their governors and ruling classes. Curious revelations slipped into them, and things not intended to be generally known were found there broadly insinuated or piquantly narrated at full length.

They were not openly sold. The Court did not like thus to have its inner recesses thrown open to the rude gaze of the populace; the police were instructed to prevent such desecration by every means in their power. But, if persecuted, this embryo press was also influentially protected. Dukes and duchesses bought it, and by persons of very blue blood it was contributed to, circulated, and concealed. Thus one of the scandals of the period, according to a French work giving revelations on the ancient police system, was to see M. de



study of all. That paper suddenly became more bewildered than usual. On Monday it came forward with an article eulogizing the proceedings of the Government. The writer, indeed, owned that it was a remarkable phenomenon that men who, nine months ago, denounced a £7 rental franchise as revolutionary, were now suddenly made converts to household suffrage. The *Times*, however, solved the difficulty, by assuring us that the change had been wrought by conscientious convictions. When we remember that the *Times* itself, nine months ago, also denounced the Liberal Reform Bill, we must suppose that its writers, too, have been convinced by conscientious motives. It saw, of course, no immorality in the proceeding. The paper that defended Mr. Disraeli's plagiarism in his oration upon the death of the Duke of Wellington, is now, we suppose, ready to defend him when he appropriates for his own use Liberal measures, which he had a short time before denounced. On Tuesday the *Times*, alarmed by what it had done the previous day, was silent on the Government policy, and fell back on its old tactics of abusing Earl Russell, when it has nothing to say. On Wednesday, however, it recovered its spirits and Monday's cue, and came forward with a defence of the cumulative vote. This was the last new thing which rumour said Mr. Disraeli had made up his mind to adopt. This was the last "dark horse" which has been let out from the Government stable. We are not here going to discuss either the cumulative or the dual, or the plural system of voting; but we must say that the sudden attachment of the *Times* to its new hobby is one of the most wonderful political changes on record. It is as wonderful as Mr. Disraeli's own remarkable double conversion from a free trader of the Bolingbroke type to the protectionist of the Lord George Bentinck order, and then back again, in his budget, from a protectionist to a modern free trader. 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#### THE FRENCH PRESS.

THE recent modification of the law in France, by which the edifice of its liberties is said to have been crowned, has excited considerable sensation among the French press. Already a convocation of provincial editors has taken place in Paris, and one too impatient Parisian editor has suffered fine and bidden "adieu to the Empire" which he helped to found. After that there is only a possibility of the empire's continuance.

But to pass over M. de Girardin, we can imagine what may be the feelings of a large number of the gentlemen who wield the pen. They cannot but know that the press has seen worse days, and recalling the memory of the evil times gone by, they must confess to a certain sentiment of relief, if not of joy. If the contrast of the present with the immediate past be not extreme, yet when it is compared with the past of a century ago, or even less, the difference is immense. And what is peculiarly to be remarked is that the press has been gradually, little by little, enfranchised from the proscription and heavy trammels which fettered its free action. The present relaxation may be welcomed as a symptom of the continuance of the same law of progressive development. It is true that there have been instances of abrupt transition from bondage to license during the intervals of revolutionary frenzy which seized the country; but these once over, the press was relegated to nearly the same place which it had occupied before. Steadily, however, its influence extended, with the extension of political education and liberal ideas, until it became a power—although a controlled power—in the State. New competitors constantly sprung up to contest the palm of popularity with the old-established papers, and taking a more advanced position, compelled, by the force of competition, the onward march of the whole press in the struggle for literary life.

On looking back, we see from what a microscopic seed this tree of a thousand branches has had to arise. Delightful letters, long and pointedly written, giving all the scandal of the court and insinuating knowledge of State secrets used, it is well known, to be so much sought after that they were rarely expected to be kept private by the writer's correspondents. They were sure to be passed from hand to hand through a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The demand, however, exceeded the supply, and something which should by its anonymity give greater freedom to the author, was desired and invented. Little bulletins, handbills, then called "Nouvelles à la Main," made their appearances, and were mysteriously handed about. They gave duly spiced accounts of that life unknown to the people—the life and actions of their governors and ruling classes. Curious revelations slipped into them, and things not intended to be generally known were found there broadly insinuated or piquantly narrated at full length.

They were not openly sold. The Court did not like thus to have its inner recesses thrown open to the rude gaze of the populace; the police were instructed to prevent such desecration by every means in their power. But, if persecuted, this embryo press was also influentially protected. Dukes and duchesses bought it, and by persons of very blue blood it was contributed to, circulated, and concealed. Thus one of the scandals of the period, according to a French work giving revelations on the ancient police system, was to see M. de



Choiseul denouncing Madame Doublet, his own aunt, to the tender mercies of the lieutenant-general of police. Writing from Versailles, on the 24th March, he says:—

"Madame Doublet yesterday has attributed to the Abbé Brèteine the saying that the squadron of M. de Blenac had been entirely captured by our enemies. Madame Doublet's news is false; I have no knowledge of it whatever; but she does no hurt to the King's squadron.

"However, after the misfortunes which emanate from Madame Doublet's shop, I could not keep myself from informing the King of this fact and of the intolerable imprudence of the news which emanates from that woman, my very dear aunt; consequently, his Majesty has commanded me to direct you to present yourself forthwith to Madame Doublet, and to inform her that if henceforth there emanates any news from her house the King will shut her up in a convent, whence she will no longer distribute such news, impertinent and contrary to the King's service as it is.

"Signed, CHOISEUL."

However, Madame Doublet was a woman of a shrewd turn of mind and not a little courage; she gave up the handbills, but her servants received news, which they inscribed on a "Register"—"extracts" from which register they afterwards sold by the hundred to curious applicants. The menace only gave an additional piquancy to the affair, increased her celebrity, and multiplied the number of her "subscribers"—if we may use such a word. Things have greatly changed in France since those days, although an editor is still liable to be prosecuted for giving currency to false news, or what it may please authority to regard as articles calculated to excite dissension and hatred. But instead of handbills sold by the hundred, it is calculated by a Paris paper that the circulation of the dailies in the capital alone represents a sum of £440 for every day they appear, whilst a total of £162 is accredited to the weeklies; or something under a quarter of a million annually for both. And this, be it observed, is exclusive of subscribers' copies—is from the sale of separate numbers solely.

These generally come into the possession of the public through the good offices of the "marchands des journaux," whose age and fixed habitation present such a contrast to our young and nomadic news-boys. Who that has visited the capital of the fashionable world has not remarked their staid demeanour in their little sentry-boxes, for to no other object can we liken their kiosks? They feel that they occupy a position not devoid of consequence; they have of late requested and obtained authorization to form themselves into a sort of mutual benefit society, having of course their president, secretary, and treasurer, like all well-ordered organizations. Will it make any change in the kind of papers sold by these officials? For instance, one could imagine the president condescending to sell nothing less notable than the *Moniteur*; the vice-president might take charge of the semi-official papers, whilst the treasurer would preside over bulletins of the Bourse alone. It would be unworthy of them to notice the existence of little journals, halfpenny productions, even although their circulation be recognised at over a quarter of a million copies. These should be left to the rank and file of the corporation. But what if the president should happen to be a woman—women are supposed to form a majority among the four hundred vendors of papers—and so this might well occur, especially if the elections be based on universal suffrage and vote by ballot? In such a case, she will perhaps add some first-class modish Magazine to her stock beside her official wares; and, after all, is not fashion the next power in Paris to the Emperor's?

One may excuse the "marchands" for being a little consequential, when we learn that to be one of them it requires that two prefects shall be moved; first, the prefect of police must give his permission, and next—in case a stall is contemplated—the prefect of the Seine. The number of vendors, as we have said, amounts to some four hundred; they are of rather recent origin. Indeed, the newsboys of our own cities cannot claim any great antiquity; the penny daily papers were the fathers of them. In Paris, after the stirring events of 1830, and during the excitement caused by the restoration of the beloved Tricolour, no new papers sprang into existence, nor did the old ones dispense their favours by the sale of separate numbers, as is now done. The *Epoque*, originated by Anténor Joly and Solar, first made the attempt to increase its circulation in this manner; men in livery were employed to sell it by the number to all comers. The next step was on the part of the *Audience*, the *Gazette de France*, and then the *Patrie*; they sent to certain grocers, bakers, and vintners, parcels of their papers every morning for sale to their customers, or to any one else who should apply, a plan which may still be seen at full work in our provincial towns. But the political occurrences of 1848 sent a new spirit into the Parisian press. Many new papers started to advocate the popular ideas, and, published

at a low price, obtained a wide circulation. There was Proudhon's *Peuple*, Bariste's *République*, and the *Liberté*, a halfpenny journal, the sale of which rose to a hundred thousand copies. With the time came the man. Delavier, great prototype of the greater Smith, appeared, and undertaking the wholesale trade, organized the traffic and the vendors. Three wholesale agents, Defaut, Calvet, and Madre, represent him to-day in the French capital. Under these, the retail vendors have grown to be not only a well-organized body, but also a corporation. There is no reason why they should not be regarded as a respectable class of persons, if money-making should be accepted as a needful ingredient in forming such an opinion. Of course, there are poor and rich amongst them; the proprietors of the fifty-two stalls who keep watch and ward on the boulevards between the Madeleine and the Porte Montmartre are the plutocrats of the profession. We are informed, by a Parisian writer, that the stall in the Cour des Fontaines, and that at the corner of the Rue du Mail, were highly to be respected; their owners disposed of what we may call their "tenant right" in them for a sum of £320 sterling. Now the stall at the latter place was simply a table, and nothing more,—bearing on one end the piles of papers, on the other a money-box, with the usual slit for pence on the top. The vendor, says a curious anecdote, might be absent, frequently was absent, but it made no difference; the customer came, took whatever paper or papers he liked, and dropped into the box whatever sum he thought fit as a remuneration. It would seem the proprietor was not mistaken in his reliance on the probity of his neighbour. Perhaps the singularity of the thing brought him customers; on the other hand, we must recollect that the French are not altogether unaccustomed to similar mute appeals to their honour. In many of the restaurants the waiter's fee box stands on the counter, near the door of exit, confident that it will neither be neglected nor ignored.

The Rue du Croissant, at two o'clock, presents a scene of great animation, for it is in that place and at that hour that what may be termed the newspaper market is held. Every vendor receives a number on arrival, so that he may obtain his parcel of papers in due order; for it is a matter of no little importance to be early with your wares in the market, and the system adopted prevents not only tumult and crushing but injustice. No great conveniences have hitherto been given to the vendors whilst thus waiting for their turn. The *Siccle* conducts its sales at a vintner's, the *Opinion* and the *Presse* at the street wickets; the *Moniteur*, the *France*, and the *Temps*, have only one medium-sized room between them; whilst the *Patrie* ushers them into a large but gloomy hall. The necessity for some reformation in the matter has been declared in the interest of the newsvendors, seeing that they have to wait for two or three hours, and waiting in the street during showers would spoil their papers, whilst waiting in wineshops cannot be done without purchasing the goodwill of the hosts. The "little press," to which we owe some of our information, does not neglect to add that it has resolved to show a good example to its big brethren, and delight its vendors by admission to a large, bright, and airy gallery, where they can fold their papers.

#### THE SOCIAL TRAINING OF SERVANTS.

If we happened to be in the middle of the long vacation instead of in the early spring, if newspaper editors had not already enough of political intelligence and political scandal to fill their columns, we might be running a very fair chance of having the interminable servant question thrust upon us once again. As it is, one or two letters have already appeared representing the side of the oppressed housemaid on the one hand, who lays claim to at least a private sitting-room, and of the despotic housekeeper on the other, who would seek to deprive her even of this moderate and reasonable luxury. *Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites*. The servant grievance dates from time immemorial, and we can hardly suppose that we should be fortunate enough to allay it by any remark of ours. But without attempting to settle a dispute of so long a standing, or to suggest an infallible panacea for this feud and disruption of the kitchen, it may be worth while to consider briefly the phenomena upon which it results, and if we cannot assign a cause, to at least contemplate the conditions. Of late occurrences have not been wanting to suggest such an inquiry to the reflective mind. If a gentleman is unfortunate enough to be guilty of such a social enormity as a *mésalliance* with his cook, the matter is more or less easily hushed up. It constitutes a nine days' scandal, it necessitates a lengthened Continental tour, a search after fresh fields and pastures new; and then with such soothing opiates as rank and fortune, the social



conscience allows itself gradually to be appeased, the lady is kept somewhat in the background, and the husband, who has been the victim of his moderate affection, or more passionate indiscretion, resumes his old club haunts as before, and occupies a position as prominent, if not as brilliant, as ever in the drawing-rooms of the West-end. But should such a *faux pas* be taken by some unhappy fair one, a very different prospect is presented. The daughter of some aristocratic family decamps in a moment of amorous infatuation with her father's groom: it is the old story—when once lovely woman stoops to folly, her only resource is to accept, with the best grace she may, the destiny she has courted. If the female character can by a process of forcing be developed into tolerated gentility, we might as soon expect to see a Satyr transmuted into an Hyperion as a groom into a gentleman. It is, we suppose, in consequence of the thousandfold greater iniquity of a sin of this latter character that more than one elopement of "a young lady in high life" with one of her father's menials, has recently found its way into the majority of the daily papers. Horace was a man who knew the world; he advises his friend not to be ashamed of having fallen in love with his servant maid, and tells him that numberless better men than he have taken precisely the same step; but we may be quite sure that if one of the daughters of this gentleman had run away with his butler, or had been seen flirting with his cup-bearer in the Campus Martius, the Venusian bard would have been the first to uplift his hands in pious horror, and to have straightway gone to the brothers Sosii with a satire or a sermon on the subject.

Such being the separate results of menial ambition and high-born passion, what is the training upon which they ensue? How comes it that the groom can aspire to the hand of his mistress when he escorts her at an obsequious distance on her rides, or that the Delilahs of the housekeeper's room and servants' hall can venture to aim at entwining their silken wiles round the affections of the scions of Belgravian mansions? We were told something the other day by a contemporary of the education of the shop; we were informed of the inestimable advantages which the counter-jumper enjoyed in his search after an aristocratic demeanour. But really these are as nothing when compared with the opportunities which Abigail or Automedon has of appearing in a fascinating light to those to whom their first duty is respectful fidelity. Habitually in the company of her young mistress, familiarized, as by long usage she must become, with all her whims and humours, insensibly inoculated with not a few of her capricious airs, can we wonder at the ultimate development of the lady's-maid? She is not only the menial attendant, but she is also the perhaps stealthy confidant of her mistress's secrets. She is not only able to imitate from close observation her manner and habit, to form from her own crude impressions some standard of what a lady's thoughts, words, and ways ought to be, but she has it in her power to carry the education of her inner life to a yet more perfect degree by the perusal of sundry letters and by a judicious course of eavesdropping. The lady's-maid early gains the position of the ideal of the servants' kitchen; her example is greedily copied by those around her, and thus in high life below-stairs we may at once see a *πρίτον εἶδωλον* of good breeding and polite etiquette. When, in addition to the mimetic faculty, of which all servants are strongly possessed, it is remembered that they have open to them stores of such literature as that afforded by the penny periodicals, a fair impression may be gained of the social influences at work in the menial world, and a fair conjecture formed of the results to which they are likely to lead. What is perhaps natural enough in the mistress becomes the absurdity of extravagance in the maid; and the maid becomes an exaggerated imitation of the peculiarities and weaknesses of the mistress. Pretty much the same might be said of the footmen, butlers, and grooms of all large establishments. "You have in liveries," said Steele, "beaux, fops, coxcombs, in as high perfection as among people that keep equipages." It would not perhaps be easy to estimate the precise amount of influence which the master has over the servant, but it may roughly be asserted that the groom, butler, or valet will be a kind of second edition, debased, possibly, and vulgarized, of his lord. It requires a mind of more than ordinary vigour to be able to gaze upon such spectacles as snobbishness, coarseness of nature or of manner in high places, and to escape uncontaminated by the obnoxious force. We can hardly imagine that the domestics of some opulent *parvenu*, who have lived perpetually amid the atmosphere of the fumes of that incense which is offered up to the god of wealth upon the altar of adulation, should be inclined to pay the same amount of respect to any chance specimen of threadbare gentility, who might trouble them to answer the bell, as those who have learned from nobler masters the lesson

of a more catholic veneration. De Quincey, who was an acute observer as well as a profound, if occasionally a nebulous, thinker, has a good remark upon this point. "At no houses whatever," he says, "are persons of doubtful appearance and anomalous costume sure of more respectful attention than at those of the great feudal aristocracy. At a merchant's or a banker's house, it is odds but the porter or the footman will govern himself in his behaviour by his own private construction of the case, which is pretty sure to be wrong." Precisely the same distinction between the conduct of servants, based upon precisely the same grounds, was drawn by no less a philosopher, and of no less remote a date, than Plato.

We have referred to the influence which it may be fairly presumed the cheap sensational literature of the day has upon the social bearing of servants. The occupants of the kitchen are a contemplative race. From the premises which their devotion and their literary studies afford, they will naturally draw their own conclusions. The only objection is, that they will probably misconceive the former and be guilty of an erroneous inference in the latter. Propriety—unfortunately, perhaps—just as much as vulgarity, is a relative term; and that which is intensely proper in master may be intensely vulgar in man. If servants are influenced by their employers, they are also just as much influenced by themselves. Novelists have given us a good many glimpses into the mysteries of high life below-stairs, and have drawn more than one well-known sketch of the thousand and one pitfalls which beset the path of menial simplicity and innocence; and there is, if we may believe such accounts, a system of rules and etiquette as complex, if not as graceful, for the servant's-hall as for the drawing-room.

As for the errors of masters towards their servants, there is something to be said on this score. If it is bad to treat the domestic with studied superciliousness, it is an equal mistake to assume towards him an air of easy and familiar insolence. Unfortunately, at the present day, this latter style of treatment is too common; and, as in all other cases, familiarity breeds contempt. If a gentleman is in the habit of making his groom take a friendly pipe with him occasionally, and of anathematizing him the next evening for some trivial offence of omission or commission, we can hardly expect much veneration to be displayed. Amongst a certain class of "slangy" young men, who are "well-bred" enough to know better, habits of this description are too much in vogue. We believe that if the matter was definitely examined, it would be discovered that service under such masters as these was the best possible school to develop an ambition to clope with aristocratic damsels. Servants, after all, have not unfrequently a greater number of personal recommendations than their masters; they discover, by the terms on which their lords suffer themselves to associate with them, that they have a certain amount of social recommendations as well, and they may, perhaps not unfairly, pride themselves on the possession of a still greater allowance of shrewd, practical sense. Personal observation, through a distorted medium of vulgar selfishness, of the qualities which a certain stamp of young ladies is apt to prize, occasionally, perhaps, stimulated by copious draughts from the glowing literature of the kitchen, may well inspire them with the hope of achieving ambitious amours. At this point, it is to be remembered, the manners of fast young ladydom may give the aspiring menial a doubtless unintentional encouragement. We have no wish to exculpate the offender from his transgression, but offences to which we have alluded involve necessarily two parties.

#### ARTEMUS WARD.

It was not without reason that our ancestors dressed the Jester in a parti-coloured robe, and made him gay with a gilt bauble, and crowned with the comb of a cock. For wit as well as humour must be bold, decisive, and able to vary itself with the changing colours of climate, nation, even of continent. It is said of some that they change the sky but not the mind when they travel; but of humour it can be said that it adapts itself to changed minds, and, like Proteus in the fable, assumes every shape the most delicate or the most saturnine, satyr-like, and even bestial forms. For humour, like wit, can shine with putrescent light, or can brighten up the forehead of a pure angel like a radiant star. In the purest portions of Sterne, in Lamb and Thomas Hood (the poet), it can insinuate the sweetest charity, and urge Christian faith with a convincing smile. Some of those strange stories, which may be found in the inexpurgated editions of Joe Miller, and which were not inaptly termed "smutty," as if blackened in the devil's chimney, many of the "Adventures of Tom Jones," of "Roderick



Random," and "Peregrine Pickle, Esq.," and other anecdotes that abound in the "Passetemps Agreeables," are full of true humour. So also are the "Miller's Tale," the "Reeve's Tale," and others by Chaucer, and almost all of the stories of M. Paul de Kock, and a thousand others, that the pure taste of the day has utterly banished, so abundantly spiced with purely laughable incident, that we regret that it is impossible to separate from the surrounding dirt. It is of so divine, so subtle a spirit, that it even penetrates into grief, and mixes itself with our tears. Even grave old Bunyan, as sound an English humorist as we have, felt this, and says:—

"Some things are of that nature as to make  
One's fancy chuckle, while his heart doth quake."

And George Herbert before him had discovered that "all things were big with jest." How humour penetrated into the prison of Cervantes, and sat upon his pen, we may let Sterne's celebrated adjuration remind us. How it lightened the death voyage of Henry Fielding, and smoothed the pillow set with many thorns of Thomas Hood, we all know. It is a blessed thing this humour is given; and in this age, chary of laughter, pregnant with many cares, heavy with questions which the coming time sternly bids it answer, we should be thankful for every particle of true good humour that comes into it, that steals gently and almost imperceptibly over us, as sunshine when a cloud is slowly withdrawn, and lights up the dismal country to a smiling landscape, and gilds even city walls and city courts with gaiety and mirth. We have true humorists; though they are not so ambitious as your wits, they are much more pleasant. "Dear Dash," said Sydney Smith of a scented friend, and as he said it he sniffed and looked round with a twinkle in his eye, "he makes all the country smell like Piccadilly." So humour makes humanity pleasant. It is humour that has peopled our memory with pleasant features and forms. With Uncle Toby, Corporal Trim, Nym, another corporal, Sergeant Kite, Master Slender, Mine Host of the Garter, the whole of that incomparable procession to Canterbury, Mrs. Gamp, and a very large Pickwickian family, the Knight of La Mancha and his inseparable Squire—stay, we must take in the ever-living animals, Rosinante and Dapple (may good fairies grant they are now both pasturing in the Elysian fields!); also Launce and his immortal dog—and a thousand others that come crowding on, Friar John, M. Jourdain, Sir Peter Teazle, and a host of histrionic fellows from whom no one can part: here is that thief Auctolycus being lectured by Touchstone—you see we cannot get them from our pen. More than this, humour has made us recognise the bad as of our own kind, and not disdain the guilty. The flesh is heavy on Sir John Falstaff, and the spirit weak, but yet we love him, and our heart goes with him when he lies on his sad bed, and calls out three times the name of God; even the sneak Pecksniff is drawn so subtly that we cannot deny that he is of our family—ay, there's the satire, there's the rub,—and truly we are forced to admit Mistress Doll Tearsheet as our sister in the flesh. Humour, therefore, is of more importance than to tickle us to laughter; without it we are but poor dolls—it makes us, in good fact, men and women.

The more, then, should we grieve that a true humorist has passed from us, who was this day week laid to rest—till carried to his distant home—in Kensal Green, attended there by men of the pen, artists, and many of the public whom he had often made laugh, and whom he, as one of the spectators said, for the first time made cry. Mr. Charles F. Brown was "known to the world as Artemus Ward," so said his modest coffin-plate, and although very young—he was born in 1833—he had achieved much notoriety, if not fame. Perhaps, of all his friends—and in England he was surrounded with enthusiastic admirers, loud protesters, and those whose admiration is most free from being weakened by judgment—of all his friends, the humorist thought less than any of himself. Nor was his genius of a very high or of a very subtle character. It was like our Church service in one respect, that is, made "to be understood of the common people," and years ago it had let sunshine into the columns of our cheap periodicals—for Artemus Ward was one of the few American authors from whom publishers stole freely,—and then it worked its way up into the middle classes. Many persons thought him vulgar—not in himself, for he was a gentleman, and one of gentle thoughts and deeds—but in his work; his showman was not of the vulgarity of dear Mrs. Jarley or of the immortal Codlin and Short, two friends introduced to us by Mr. Dickens, who keep a Punch and Judy show—that kind of low life, so pure, so delicately drawn, that it is pleasant in the drawing-room; but Mr. "A. Waud," as he spelt it, was often very profane, sometimes

silly, and at other times low. But this, we believe, was entirely the fault of Yankee humour, not of its professor. When loud oaths, comic invocations of the Deity, and misapplications of the persons of the Trinity, are looked upon as venial, or even funny, we must not wince at a Biblical reference spicing an anecdote; nor if the blessed Apostles are put up in wax "figgers" on purpose to be laughed at. That his "kangaroo is the most larfable little cuss" might startle those who reflect that "cuss" means "curse," and is the Yankee diminutive for a heavy chain-shot of oaths not pleasant to repeat; but if we pass these blots, as not belonging to the author, but as inherent to the bad taste of his nation, we may find in the "Book" of Artemus Ward some fairly clever sketches of character and some good fun. Mr. Brown, who began life as a compositor, had, by pure force of humour, risen to be one of the best contributors to *Vanity Fair*, the *American Punch*, and had even contributed, though not very successfully, to *Punch* itself. He had lectured far and wide, and probably killed himself by over exertion, for he was not of a strong constitution; and it is to be remarked that, as he rose, his humour rose with him, and became more refined, although it is of that peculiar sort that cannot be translated or transplanted, and which will probably very soon die out. For a great deal of his fun consists in queer spelling, a method which Smollett introduced with Winifred Jenkins, and which Hood and Thackeray have very freely used; thus, "going 4 to see him," "sow 4th," "3 ten (for threaten)" "2 B and not to B," are ingenious, but hardly comic; and though "bizness" and "figger" look curiously phonetic, we soon get tired of them. Mr. Ward, too, was unfortunate in his London editors. We added insult to injury; we first printed his good things without any equivalent, and then, in the "author's own edition," stuck a vulgar piece of biography, in which he was patted on the back as "a first-rate type sticker;" and comic essays are said to be his "fortus," while a dreary attempt at fun is seen in something said about his "picters." But all this the deceased humorist, had life been given him, would have lived down. He was so amiable and so good that it has been said that he never met a man without making him his friend; and having made him a friend he never lost him; and we can believe it, granting this one exception to that proverb, which wisely condemns him who is praised by everybody. It is the misfortune of young authors to fall into the hands of doubtful publishers, but when out of his publishers' hands "Artemus" made friends. When he first appeared in public, the public recognised him as a gentleman; and his lecture was original, and, for a wonder, better than his book. The very programme he issued, though somewhat similar to his American bills, was full of fun, and disposed the audience to mirth. At Broadway, No. 806, he had announced "that his foot was once more on his native heath, and that his name is trooly yours;" and at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, his first line seriously informed us that "during the vacation the Hall had been carefully swept out, and a new door knob added to the door." His address was to be a "rather frisky prologue" of about ten minutes in length and of nearly the same width; of the depth he modestly adds, "I will say nothing." And when he represents himself, Artemus, as leaving his native shore, "the citizens on the wharf appeared entirely willing that he should go. 'Bless you, sir,' they say, 'don't hurry about coming back; stay away for years if you want to go.' It was very touching." It was very funny, that's what it was, this artistic incongruity; that was the chief characteristic of his wit, and it was part and parcel of the man. The audience actually saw before them a tall, fair gentleman, with a face upon which Death had written his summons open and at large, without a smile upon his lips, with solemn and large eyes, talking in a soft and measured voice, and often with apparent pain, certain incongruous platitudes. Hence they were constantly struck with surprise, and the laughter, suddenly explosive all over the hall, often rippled up from different quarters of the room long after the joke had passed. And add to this that all was done in good style, without a tinge of impropriety, even when speaking of the Mormons. Once, indeed, and the humorist was a Christian, he referred to the knavery of Brigham Young, the vicious folly of polygamy, as a gentleman of the world; such a thing, he said, was beneath debate, and far below expatiation, in a civilized capital—but that was all. In his very "puffs" there was a humour better than in his book. He describes himself as an orator thus:—"It was a grand scene, Mr. Artemus Ward standing on the platform talking; many of the audience sleeping tranquilly in their seats, others crying like a child at some of the jokes—and when he announced that he should never lecture in that town again, the applause was absolutely deafening." And happily this funny burlesque is as utterly



untrue as it is comic; for no one slept as he spoke, and no one ever cried, or was ever wounded at his jokes. And, if most of his wit is evanescent, and he has created no grand character, indeed left but two—the bald old showman and his wife, with his wax figgers and his comical kangaroo, fond of oratin', and so anxious to make a speech that he thanks the Baldinsville ingin', because when he illuminated on the 4th of July, the firemen thought his house was on fire, and came up to it, and *didn't squirt*—he has, at any rate, left no line which we could well wish to blot. He died young, after much work, and after raising himself from an obscure position. He had his best years to come, and the wisdom and reflection that time would have brought would have ripened him into something much higher than he was. He has left us a pleasant memory, and it is a happy thing to record that he so loved the English, and was so touched and warmed by the friendly hands and hearts that received him here, that even in his illness he clung to the shores of the old home which he had often amused and against which, after he had known us, he had never said one word. So even to the last line of his burlesque "opinion of the press," we must, as we think sadly of him, give his gentle spirit the pleasure of hearing a hearty contradiction. "And when he rose to go, and announced that he should never lecture in that town again," he wrote, "the applause was absolutely deafening." Truly, when he rose to go, and turned his steps to the silent shore where we are all travelling, there were many hearts that were sad, and many eyes that were wet with tears. Sydney Smith, a great master in the domain that Artemus explored, said, after much sad thought of Wit and Humour, "I wish I could satisfy myself of their good effects, but I am convinced that the probable tendency of both is to corrupt the understanding and the heart." But this young humourist, so sadly taken from us, gave a proof in his life that the reverse was true. Wit and humour had expanded his understanding, and had not only opened his heart but had thrown wide the doors of the great heart of the world to him.

#### THE SEASON.

VERY soon the business of pleasure will begin in real earnest. It has already been duly opened, but as yet the engagements have not become regular. Young ladies bent on establishments must shortly prepare to go through the initiatory process of flirtation, and by this the proper covers and preserves have been well marked by anxious mothers. For those who are experienced, advice is of little use. A woman in her third or fourth season knows as much as ever she is likely to learn. If she has failed, she can profit by past mischances. Most women nowadays do fail on their preliminary trial. They attempt too much, fly too high, or pursue too hotly. Every lady as well as gentleman has his or her romantic misfortune, which, however, no more interferes with subsequent interchanges of sentiment with other ladies and gentlemen than early measles interfere with mature asthma. Indeed, so much is this the fashion, that it is dangerous for two persons who profess a first attachment to acknowledge their weakness, as they will feel bound to quarrel, if it is only to keep up the usage. Fourth love is, perhaps, after all, more enduring than first, and it is sure to be more sensible. We read of a certain afflicted personage, that his last state was worse than his original condition. We may apply this to love, as "badly in love" means over head and ears in the tender passion. It occurs to us, also, that there is a significant meaning in the expression "over head and ears." Why "ears"? Are they supposed in such a case to be figuratively growing above the head? Not that the present race of young men are donkeys in this respect. They would often be wiser with more folly. Women are becoming equally cynical. A match between a pair of London party hacks is a dreadful business to reflect upon. And yet they jog on well enough when the collar begins to sit naturally. Affection is not necessary to existence, and there are people who would find it as intolerable as Sir Cornwall Lewis found amusements. A civil contract sanctioned by the Church and by the laws of good sense, represented by a comfortable income, serves in lieu of it. Such, at least, is the prevalent opinion in the best circles. Mothers who ought to know, not only because they are mothers, but because they were daughters, so instruct their progeny. How many of them will refrain from cautioning their charges from weak alliances during the season? They will catalogue the eligibles and score under the ineligibles. We are far from blaming so praiseworthy and creditable a precaution, but it cannot be too widely published. Men without

money and who are unfortunately susceptible, endure a great deal from the courteous dishonesty and mistaken mercy of those good ladies. Of course the fellows have no right to be susceptible upon a limited income, but many of them can no more help it than they can resist the temptation of smoking expensive cigars. And women select those victims often for practice, and we believe the mothers rather encourage the enterprise. They are operated on, so to speak, in private. They are fastened up to a post, like Mr. Winkle's partridge, and fired at point blank. There is no more consideration for their feelings than if they were stuffed birds. This is very proper as the world goes, but there is a wanton cruelty in it.

It is interesting to notice a young lady of intelligence, of a warm impulsive nature, and of fair social education, struggling between the yearnings of a thoughtful, far-reaching disposition and the silken fetters of artificial beliefs induced by contact with society, and with the remembrances of a few seasons. She struggles not to lose her mind altogether in surrendering to the present imposed duty of her life, which is to get well married. She endeavours to reconcile what she retains of romance with what she has adopted of practical views. No thorough woman quite gives up her ideal until forty, and Sydney Smith tells us she then tires even of virtue. But many young ladies endeavour to fit an heroic mantle, woven from fancy, upon the shoulders of plain common sense. They are disabused of downright romance, but they hope to meet a mixture not quite so bitter to the palate as the suitable husband. For this they flirt, and occasionally suffer a slight inconvenience when recovering. The recovery, however, is more rapid when the experiment is often repeated, until at length there is no interval between their desperate attachment to one man and their marriage with another. It is possible, too, that even now a few young men could be found who during the season will not be bent on utterly selfish proceedings. Some are born for the purpose, it would almost seem, of attesting the vitality of sentiment, and nothing will entirely deprive them of hope. Even having their affection returned, as it is called, will not cure them, and nothing short of matrimony will convince them of the barrenness of all things under the sun. They are the descendants of the people of a remote age who married for love, and they retain the weakness of their ancestors. They cause serious disturbances now and again, by controverting the designs of prudent parents. But they are gradually becoming extinct. Women are displaying a contempt for them, and contempt will kill them effectually. A poem might be written, with Campbell in mind, upon the last romantic personage left in London. He might be described as really marrying for love, and it is ten chances to one that his wife would be his cook or an actress.

Those who thoroughly enjoy the season are widows and young married women. For them it is a time of almost unalloyed triumph and happiness. The former, to be sure, may have some business in hand, but they know better how to combine business with pleasure than their unwedded sisters. There is no one to pull them up for lingering on the staircases; for disappearing with their partners into remote conservatories, and for dressing high or low, as circumstances require. A widow is allowed ample room and verge enough to recover her lost ground. Society, apparently, regards her as the victim of an accident; as a woman who should be subsidised, as far as possible, for the loss she has sustained. It helps her by every means to jump from her anomalous condition into her due sphere. For widowhood is no state. When a widow is young, pretty, and endowed with a large income, she does not rest content in her position; and society, for several reasons, has elected to let her have her way, and smooth it for her. Married ladies whose husbands are reasonable should also run a pleasant course during the season. We cannot arrive at the perfection of France and Italy or Germany in the delightful intercourse which is permitted between married ladies and their gentlemen friends; but we are annually improving, and the ladies are growing more Continental every year. The young gentlemen who will, for the first time in their lives, assume dress-coats this season, deserve special mention. Not that so many youngsters are fools. The proportion is daily lessening. Moon calves are growing rare. Women will soon be no longer troubled with the fresh and green admiration, almost worship, of the boy springing into manhood. But our young friends will dance the first season. They are indefatigable waltzers; and seeing them enjoy a waltz is almost as exhilarating as seeing a bevy of children crowding out of a box at a pantomime. There is often a striking contrast to be observed between the face of a young gentleman of young disposition, and the face, not older, perhaps, which hangs over his shoulder. The one is full of spirit and fun, the other is languid and *blasé*. Next



season the young gentleman won't waltz, but the lady may have to go her weary rounds again and yet again until she is engaged for a more lengthened period than the next dance.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Duke de Persigny has been delivering in the French Senate one of his well-known historico-political essays on the Imperial Constitution, as distinguished from that of England. The occasion was the discussion on the *Senatus Consultum* for modifying Art. 26 of the former, and giving to the Senate enlarged powers for debating, or temporarily suspending, any Bills sent up to them from the *Corps Législatif*. M. de Persigny said really nothing about these matters, but entered into a long dissertation on the excellence of the French Constitution, and on the evil effects of Parliamentary Government. Unquestionably the speech was clever, and it cannot be denied that Parliamentary Government was by no means successful in France during the inglorious, and for the most part disreputable, rule of Louis Philippe. Nor did it show to any greater advantage in the brief ascendancy of the Republic. It may be that it is really unfitted to the French people, who associate it with a restricted suffrage (in opposition to their democratic instincts), and with barren eloquence, that simply excites the passions of all parties, without satisfying any, or fulfilling the demands of the nation. The Americans, equally with the French, have found it incompatible with democracy; though, by the way, they have recently been making some noteworthy advances in that direction. But in England, hitherto, it has worked well; and when M. de Persigny argues that, but for the hesitation caused by Parliamentary Government, we might have crushed the United States for centuries at the time of the civil war, we must say that it was fortunate we had something to save us from such a crime and misfortune, supposing it to have been in any way possible—which we very much doubt.

So far successful in his efforts after the honours of martyrdom, M. Emile de Girardin has been condemned to a fine of 5,000 francs, without imprisonment, for his libel on the Emperor in the *Liberté*; and M. Serriere, the printer, to a fine of 100 francs. The former made a sort of apology for his violence, admitting that the article was perhaps "inopportune" at the moment when reforms were promised. A martyr who half retracts at the very moment of his martyrdom is a very poor specimen of the genus, and is not likely to win credit from any one. Had M. de Girardin made this concession when brought before the *juge d'instruction*, instead of reserving it, for greater display, until he appeared before the Sixth Chamber of Correctional Police, it is thought that all further proceedings would have been abandoned; but reason is not to be expected from a man who evidently consults his vanity above all things, and who has even now appealed against his very light sentence, though the appeal is not unlikely to result in the addition of imprisonment. As it is, M. de Girardin's egotism very nearly caused the premature stifling of the contemplated reforms, the Emperor, in a moment of irritation, being almost persuaded to draw back from the path on which he had entered. The liberal counsels of MM. Rouher, Baroche, and Lavalette, however, fortunately prevailed, and on Wednesday the President of the *Corps Législatif* laid before that body the new Bill on the press, of which the following are the principal features:—"The authorization hitherto required previous to establishing a journal is suppressed; imprisonment for offences against the press laws is abolished; the amount of the fine which may be inflicted will be not less than one-fifteenth, and not more than one-half, of the caution-money; printers and publishers will no longer be required to take out licenses." The law undoubtedly stood in great need of alteration, and the only question is, whether these concessions are sufficient to satisfy the just demands of the French people.

ARMED with a strong majority in the new Parliament, the Italian Government will now be able to show whether or not they have the capacity of statesmen in them. The extreme parties are in the minority, even when added together; and Baron Ricasoli ought to be able to do better than he has yet done. Unfortunately, however, Italy has shown a dearth of original genius since the achievement of her independence. There has been no second Cavour, and Garibaldi and the Reds have been showing how foolish and mischievous they can be in

the name of principles that are admirable in themselves. We are glad, however, to find that Garibaldi has written to the *Diritto*, denying that, in his recent speech at Palma, he accused that paper of having sold itself, or stated that an article could be inserted in the *Times* for £12,000. Still the general violence of his language is not to be gainsaid, and it is rendering the difficulties of Italy still greater than of necessity they are.

WE continue to hear of some species of intervention in Turkish affairs on the part of Russia and the other Great Powers; but all is still very obscure. Russia seems inclined to make extreme demands; France to be more moderate; and England to hold aloof. On the other hand, all the Great Powers, it would appear, have promised that the sovereignty of Turkey over Servia shall be maintained, in consideration of the evacuation of the Servian fortresses by the Porte—a very rash promise, all things considered. There is an odd statement about Italy in connection with the Eastern question. Three Italian vessels of war have been for some time in the Candian waters; and a considerable augmentation of this force is to take place, according to the *Italia*, which says that "Italy is preparing for the grave events which may take place in the spring, and which everybody anticipates." According to another authority, the Italian fleet collected at Cagliari, under the orders of Admiral Ribotti, will leave for the Levant in a few days, and in April we are to expect "events in the East," in which Italy is destined to play a considerable part, though "a part of conciliation, rather than of war." What does it all mean?

THE debates in the North German Parliament have continued, and Count Bismarck has declared that "the union between South Germany and the North German Confederation is in course of preparation," and that the reorganization of the Federal army is to be "only provisionally independent of a vote of the Parliament." These are important statements, and augur well for the future. The Government, however, has had to encounter some sharp opposition, especially from the Liberal Catholics, speaking on behalf of Austria; but it can well afford to disregard these ineffectual protests.

It is satisfactory to find that the more violent politicians in Hungary are held completely in check by the more moderate, and that the influence of Deak has in no respect diminished. Even the temporary success of the former might have given Austria a pretext for retracting her recent concessions, and would thus have plunged the country into incalculable miseries. As it is, it has been wisely determined not to push the late success of the national party too far, but to adopt a conciliatory policy towards Austria, and even to waive one or two rights for the sake of concord. Thus, the moderates have determined not to abolish at once the taxes imposed during the period of Austrian usurpation, but to proceed gradually. The Hungarian nation, nevertheless, is resuming all its functions. The Ministry has been authorized by the Lower House to provisionally organize the Government and judicial administration of Transylvania; the official organ of the Ministry has made its appearance; and the Imperial arms have been removed from the public buildings.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON is said to be "preparing to execute the Bill for the military government of the South;" and the House of Representatives has passed a supplement to the Reconstruction Bill, empowering the military commanders of the South to take a census, to register the votes of the population, to call a convention, and to form a constitution. The Republicans have carried the elections in New Hampshire, and the Governor of Louisiana has announced that the Military Government Bill is already in force in that State. Thus, by dint of a definite policy resolutely carried out, the North has carried its designs to a triumphant issue. The President is obviously incapable of stemming the Radical tide, and he seems disposed to sulk over his defeat. He has sent no Message to the new Congress, and is probably waiting to see what new turn of political events is reserved for his future degradation.

It is impossible to understand the last telegraphic despatches with reference to Mexico. They speak of Republican defeats and Imperialist defeats, and which party has really had the worst of it is far from clear. But it is certain that there have been very serious collisions between the forces under the com-



mand of the Emperor and his generals and those of the so-called Liberals. It seems probable that the capital is still in the hands of the Imperialists; but there are statements to the other effect too, and none of the details are plainly made out.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON has been again returned for Droitwich without opposition, and has taken that opportunity of making a speech, which, if not remarkable for wisdom, is interesting on account of the minuteness of its details as to the late Cabinet perplexities. On Saturday, the 23rd of February, a Cabinet Council came to certain conclusions in respect of the Reform Bill which the Government intended to propose to Parliament. On Monday, Lord Derby was to address the Conservative party on this subject at two o'clock, and at half-past four Mr. Disraeli was to explain the Reform Bill to the House of Commons. At the close of the Cabinet Council on Saturday, Lord Derby went to Windsor to communicate with the Queen, and Sir John Pakington heard nothing more of the matter till Monday morning, when he received an urgent summons to Lord Derby's house at half-past twelve. There he found only three or four members of the Cabinet, and it was not till half-past one that the whole Cabinet could be brought together. "As each one dropped in the first question was—'What is the matter?'" Then each in succession was informed that Lord Cranborne and Lord Carnarvon had declared against the Bill which the Cabinet had adopted on Saturday. As Lord Derby had to address the Conservative party at two o'clock, he and his colleagues had only about ten minutes in which to make up their minds. They determined to abandon the Bill agreed upon. Sir John confesses that this was a mistake. In any other country it might not have proved so harmless a one. He then gave his constituents a general notion of the Bill which is to be laid before the House on Monday next. Its main principle will be "a large and bold concession of the franchise to the working classes. The Government had asked themselves whether it would not be safer to rest on a principle instead of resting on a figure; whether it would not be a safe way, as well as a test of respectability, if you did not give the vote to a man merely as a householder of £6 or £7 rental or rating, but because, whether an occupier or ratepayer, he was in such a position as enabled him to pay the burdens that attached to property. If that was the principle to be carried out in a Reform Bill, there could be no doubt that it would be in point of numbers an enormous concession to the working classes." But if they made great concessions to numbers, it would be desirable to consider in what way they could avoid placing a disproportionate power in the hands of a class. He could not enter further into details with regard to the Government plan, but he thought it probable that some plan would be proposed to extend the franchise "in such a way as would give the right of voting to persons who, though not householders, were by education and position in life as well calculated as others to take part in the election of representatives."

THE *Westminster Gazette* apologizes for an article which recently appeared in its columns on the subject of the Priesthood, and which, it appears, drew from the *Saturday Review* animadversions upon its tone and manner, which the *Gazette* confesses were not undeserved. It seems that the incriminated article "was inserted by accident in the *Westminster Gazette* unrevised and uncorrected by the editor." The painfulness of such an admission is presumptive evidence of its truth, which is also probable from the fact that an article was prepared for the following number of the *Gazette* intended to do away with the offensive impression conveyed by the article complained of. In making this explanation, the *Westminster Gazette* recriminates against the *Saturday Review*, and charges it with injustice in stating that the immunity from civil judicature which Catholicism claims for the clergy, is a demand to allow a priest who has committed murder to go unpunished by the law of the land. "This statement," it says, "is one of those random assertions which, as Dr. Newman observes, keep up the great Elizabethan tradition against Catholicism, and which we are surprised to see in a paper of such a character as the *Saturday Review*; though this surprise has somewhat abated from the fact that only a few weeks ago the same paper made the astounding statement that 'men need not be very old to remember torture practised in the Romagna.'" The principle for which the *Westminster Gazette* contends is that, no matter how much opposed to each other in principle journalists may be, their warfare should be "honourable and open," and that prejudicial statements should be substantiated or retracted.

This is only fair. And the *Gazette* has given proof of its willingness to abide by this principle by its repudiation of one of its own articles. It describes itself as "Catholic, Ultramontane, Hildebrandistic," and, when we consider the perfect toleration with which all religious opinions are represented in this country, and the tendency of this fact to soften asperities, we cannot regret the appearance amongst us of a journal even of the extreme views of the *Westminster Gazette*.

WHAT will Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Whalley say? That staunch Protestant, Lord Derby, has actually appointed a Roman Catholic to be Lord Lieutenant of the county of Rutland. If it is wicked, as was argued by the member for Peterborough, to appoint a Roman Catholic Lord Lieutenant over a Roman Catholic kingdom, how much more wicked must it be to appoint one over a Protestant county?

THE best analysis of the bearings of Mr. Disraeli's fancy franchises is decidedly that of Mr. Goldwin Smith, published in the *Manchester Examiner and Times*. Mr. Smith, in the case of the savings bank and funds' franchise, remarks that mere frugality shows less public spirit than any other virtue. The principle involved, too, in the scheme is wrong. As Mr. Smith says, "virtue cannot be scheduled." Mr. Smith then goes on to show how, if such a franchise was adopted, "an extensive manufacture of laudable frugality" would at once commence.

A VERY characteristic letter on Reform has been published in the *Times*, from the late Mr. Cobden. It is marked by that love of simplicity and straightforwardness which distinguished all his thoughts and actions. He hated with all his heart anything that approached chicanery. His plan for Electoral Reform is simple enough. He would give to each constituency only one member, and to each elector only one vote. He would subdivide large towns into wards. Each ward would of course return its own member. In this way, each section of society and each shade of politics would be represented. The scheme certainly possesses one of the first merits of a practical measure—simplicity.

THE controversy between Mr. France and Lord Redesdale, which has lately been occupying the attention of a committee of the House of Lords, affords an excellent example of the objectionable way in which our private Bill legislation is managed. Mr. France and his friends promoted the Mold and Denbigh Junction Railway Bill, which was opposed by the London and North-Western Company, but passed the House of Commons in spite of the opposition. In the House of Lords, the opposition was at first continued, but afterwards withdrawn, and the unopposed Bill came before Lord Redesdale as Chairman of Committees in the House for his report. At this point the North-Western Company reappeared, and asked that a clause might be inserted in the Bill prohibiting the Mold and Denbigh Company from taking any land of the Vale of Clewyd Company, owned by the North-Western, except by consent. This clause Lord Redesdale, after hearing both sides, inserted, and Mr. France, in a pamphlet, complains that it has had the effect of rendering useless all that he has secured in the House of Commons. The land is said to be necessary to the success of the scheme, and the North-Western Company meet Mr. France's efforts to obtain their consent by "a contemptuous refusal, couched in language so offensive as to be probably without parallel." Mr. France's solicitor admits that he could not have altogether resisted, although he might have modified the clause had it been proposed in committee; and so far Lord Redesdale undoubtedly did no more than supply what was obviously a defect in the Bill. Still, it would have been far more satisfactory had this addition been made by the House of Commons' Committee, instead of by a single official who has never displayed much affection for "contractors' lines."

A CORRESPONDENT from Ireland writes to us to say that the "Fenian movement resembles the Italian rising against the Austrians in '48—the same class of young men of the cities, fairly educated and exceedingly enthusiastic, combined with others less educated influenced by them, and with large numbers of peasantry galled by the land laws, by ejectments after improvements, and by ejectments for not voting exactly as the landlord wishes. There was a case (continues our corre-



spondent), exasperating enough, tried in Monaghan the other day. The hapless tenant had two landlords, voting on different sides: he offered a vote to each, but one told him 'anything less than the whole hog is worse than nothing,' and the tenant was deprived of his promised lease by this landlord, and ejected after improvement. Every tenant feels such an injustice as this to be typical, hence every such case creates intense discontent, culminating into disaffection, when it is seen that Parliament does nothing but pile up broken projects."

LORD CLONCURRY has gained a little notoriety by a letter in the Irish newspapers this week. It appears he cannot tolerate a Liberal deputy-lieutenant betwixt the wind and a nobility which is not quite as venerable as the Conquest. Englishmen who are puzzled in trying to understand the motive causes of the infatuated bigotry of the sister isle will learn something by the perusal of this epistle.

ONE of the most useful measures of this session, the Bill brought in by Mr. Russell Gurney for the amendment of the criminal law, is making a very satisfactory progress through committee. The clause which enables the Court to direct the payment by the prosecutor of the costs of a person who has been improperly accused, has been agreed to, and another clause, which provides for the payment of the expenses of such of the prisoner's witnesses as depose to facts, has been assented to, subject to certain alterations.

THE Libel Bill of Sir Colman O'Loughlen, to which we directed attention in a recent article, has passed its second reading, and has been referred to a select committee. It appears probable that some portions of the measure will give rise to considerable discussion, especially that which proposes that when anything libellous is spoken at a public meeting, and reported, the speaker, and not the newspaper, should be held responsible; and the clause which enables a defendant to pay money into court, unaccompanied by the apology, at present required.

THE Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been engaged in a kind of vivisectioning entertainment, which contrasts agreeably with those of our French neighbours. French science tortured horses that it might benefit humanity. The members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals submit their own persons to operations in order to alleviate the sufferings of horses. The Society met Dr. Richardson to witness his demonstration of the production of insensibility to pain by means of ether spray, and several gentlemen, having submitted their arms to the benumbing influence of the ether, passed large needles through the parts. It was stated at the meeting that the new discovery is invaluable in the treatment of most of the diseases to which horses are liable.

#### OUR UNIVERSITY LETTER.

OXFORD.

THE first startling move in the direction of University extension is inaugurated by Balliol. The Master and Fellows propose to offer five exhibitions of the annual value of £52. 10s., to be competed for at the ensuing Oxford local examination; the five seniors in the first division of the general list having the priority of choice. These students, if they accept the exhibitions, will be required to come into residence in January, 1868, and to pass their responsions within six months of admission. They will be subject to the ordinary entrance fee paid to the University, viz., £2. 10s., and the annual fee of £1. The only college charges will be £22. 8s., paid each year for tuition, and £10 for furnished lodgings, in which the students will be able to live on such a frugal scale as best suits their means. The experiment is certainly a novel one, and whether it opens the door to a further extension of the system or not, still it is a partial solution of one of the questions now pending—not to say *suspended*; though Dr. Pusey's motion of referring these propositions to a general committee is certainly a move towards general stagnation. It is a very proper feature in the Balliol scheme that no reduction is made from the ordinary tuition fees. To lower these at a time when sixty-fold the amount of work is imposed upon tutors, in comparison with the days when those fees were settled, seems to us a mistaken method of cheapening University education. Indeed, it may fairly be questioned whether it could not be contrived that the tuition

fees and the ordinary current expenses of meals and rooms should be regulated by a University order, and not left so much to the whim and fancy of individual colleges. A ready answer could then be given to the often asked question, "What are the necessary expenses at the University?"—a question to which at present it is impossible to give a plain reply.

Your readers are aware that for some time the Principals of St. Mary's and St. Alban's Halls have carried on a system of frugal education on the principle of the prepayment of a definite fixed sum, to cover all or very nearly all the expenses of living and tuition. The economical system is, in short, worked by the authorities of the Hall, and the student conforms himself to it. From the pamphlet published some time since upon this subject, we gather that the average cost for everything from matriculation to degree amounts on this system to £297. Mr. Moore, the Principal of St. Edmund Hall, has just published a statement of a different plan pursued in his Hall, which he shows to be, on an average of the three years, some £15 cheaper, while, by being based on the present college system of caution-money, room-rent, and variable battells, it escapes the disadvantage of being avowedly a strict discipline for enforcing frugality. "The average expense," writes Mr. Moore, "on the ordinary system of payment (as arranged at St. Edmund Hall), is certainly (after making every possible allowance) *not more* than the *uniform* expense of the fixed payment system; while the amount for which any one who chooses to practise a little voluntary self-denial and economy is able to live, is *considerably less*. I may add, that I think it no small moral advantage (if I may so term it) of the ordinary system that it teaches men to practise economy and self-denial for themselves (*οὐκ ἐπακτῶ παρ' ἄλλων τῇ ἀρετῇ ἀναγκαζόμενοι χρῆσθαι*)." Now under both systems the tuition fees are materially reduced, while Mr. Moore secures the advantage for the members of his Hall of the *entrée* of the lectures at Queen's College.

But be it understood that it is merely in the interest of the tutors that we insist that no reduction should be made. If it should be thought right that the University shall become *very* national and University education free, by all means let that result come, only in such a case a grateful nation will probably divert the wasted revenues of the colleges to the payment of those who work for the University. We have no particular care as to where the money comes from, so long as our working bees receive a fair return for their labours. As it is, there are proofs already to be seen of the unsatisfactory result of the almost Quixotic attempt "to work for love and not for hire," which was inaugurated by Professor Jowett, and enthusiastically imitated by the large influx of very young tutors which has marked this generation.

The usual petition, with the University seal attached, against Mr. Coleridge's Tests Abolition has "been sent up;" and Sir W. Heathcote is ready with his amendments when the Bill comes on for the third time. It was not a little amazing to see the line taken in the *Times* upon the real character and tendencies of this Bill: the marked timidity with which the natural consequences of it were contemplated. There seems to be two distinct sources of inspiration from which the *Times* is fed, when it undertakes to discuss University matters; and gossips confidently profess to recognise them, and to trace the ways in which these conflicting influences are brought to bear upon "Tom Towers." It is understood that if Mr. Coleridge's Bill passes without being modified by substantial arrangements, Keble College will be built in a purer atmosphere, perhaps in the congenial diocese of Salisbury—say, in the virgin solitude of Stonehenge; its movements and successes being recorded for the outer world in the appropriate organs, where we shall read of the elections to fellowships and honorary tutorships, as we read the other day with great pleasure, in a local paper, the appointment of a gentleman to be Greek Professor at Cuddesdon College!

There was a meeting on the 27th ult. in the Sheldon Theatre of those interested in the progress of the Palestine Exploration Fund. Dean Stanley and Sir H. Rawlinson were the chief speakers. They both insisted on the advantages of digging for antiquarian remains in Jerusalem, and the necessity of having money to pay for the excavations; but by some means or other the meeting was a little dull. Subscriptions will, however, be gladly received by Professor Rawlinson, or at the Old Bank.

The Hebdomadal Council have come to find it a very expensive amusement to maintain a night police to protect both the City and University now that Oxford has spread her skirts into so many suburbs. The expense of this service is not less than £2,000 a year, and, as the Council admits, it is notoriously inefficient. It is currently stated that the City takes its share of the expense by keeping up a day force. It



is not improbable that there is such a force. A patient walker in the Oxford streets may come to know by sight two constables, built more upon principles of solidity than activity; there may be many more of that force, but we are inclined to think that they must belong to the subterranean patrols we hear of in Madrid, whose duty is to walk up and down the sewers to prevent burglars coming up the drains into the dwelling houses. So in this nineteenth century the University is ready to give up that privilege of "Watch and Ward" which she so jealously maintained, and the City does not care to claim a right once battled for so gallantly. The bitterness of the feud between City and University, and their open antagonism, is a thing of the past; the skirmishes of the 5th November have degenerated into the interchange of compliments between town boys and Freshmen; and St. Scholastica's day, with its scene of bloodshed, could never be repeated. The City regards the University as a large milch cow which must be milked, milked, milked to the last drop. The decision of the Council has been then, that since the City will not accept arbitration in the matter, the University is justified in discontinuing the maintenance of a night police, except for the purposes of academical discipline.

College athletic sports are still the order of the day, although some are found to cry out bitterly against the waste of time and the general habit of betting to which they lead. Probably the most objectionable feature in them (which not a few of the athletes individually acknowledge) is the obligation which fashion seems to lay upon all colleges to provide a very handsome and very expensive "Stranger's prize." There is neither rhyme nor reason in enforcing a subscription for a cup of £15 or £20 to be won by somebody who gives his whole mind (!) to the trade of running; however, it is hopeless arguing against the tyranny of public opinion.

It would be naturally said that the constitutional ride was the most harmless of every possible amusement. But the dangers which an equestrian runs from the savage native population of the wild villages round Oxford are worthy of Cahirciveen or Tallaght. A little more than a week ago some undergraduates had been riding about Marston, trespassing, it is acknowledged, in a grass field, from which they jumped their horses into the road, where they were beset by labourers with pitchforks. All rode through the party unscathed, except Mr. Staines, of Oriel, who received a violent thrust in the leg from the pitchfork of a brutal native named Randall. The fork entered the calf, breaking both bones, and the unfortunate gentleman lies in a precarious state, and with the probability at any rate of losing the limb. It is needless to comment on the assault. Trespasses are without doubt serious annoyances, and gentlemen should respect farmers' property as they would their own; but an assault of this kind, where "furor arma ministrat," merits the severest punishment.

On Tuesday night Mr. Ewart moved for leave to bring in his University Bill, for enabling students to be educated at Oxford and Cambridge without enrolling themselves as members of any college. This is, of course, a much wider measure than merely to relax the severe Laudian restrictions on residence within college walls. We must reserve our comments for the time when the Bill is introduced.

## FINE ARTS.

### MUSIC.

THE season of our great serial concerts has now commenced—the elder Philharmonic Society having led the way on Monday last, when this institution entered on the fifty-fifth year of its existence, the occasion being also that of the first appearance of Mr. W. G. Cusins as conductor in the room of Professor Sterndale Bennett, who resigned the appointment last year, after having held it for eleven seasons. Any such change in favour of one who has not hitherto earned a pre-eminent reputation is sure to call forth protestations and objections, some of which, probably, emanate indirectly from disappointed aspirants for the same office. The successful man is condemned before he has made his first essay, without the possibility of its being known whether he is or is not fully qualified for the office to which he is appointed. Mr. Cusins, it is true, had not publicly manifested that he was an efficient conductor of an orchestra, but he has for some years proved that he is a thoroughly cultivated musician, a pianist of very high merits and great executive powers—and when to this is added the fact that he has had considerable experience (although not in the position of conductor) in matters connected with orchestral playing, the inference should have been that he possessed most, if not all, of the requisites for the post he has obtained. The acrimony with which this gentleman has been pre-judged in several quarters renders it imperative, in the interests of justice,

to say thus much on the other side. It is, moreover, very agreeable to be able to add that the result of the first concert was such as to hold out a strong probability that the appointment of Mr. Cusins will be attended with advantage to the society. This gentleman evinced, throughout the concert of Monday, the soundest judgment in determining the *tempo* of each movement of the pieces performed, his indication of which to the instrumentalists was conveyed in a calm, self-possessed manner, and with an intelligible distinctness that are sometimes wanting in conductors of long public standing. There is much for Mr. Cusins to do in bringing the orchestra up to that degree of refinement which should characterize the performances of such a society. The instrumentalists engaged are, individually, of excellent quality—it would be scarcely possible to collect a finer band of wind instruments—but the orchestra has been accustomed to a somewhat loose and scrambling style of playing, with an excess of *forte* and an almost absence of *piano*, faults which can only be corrected by strenuous perseverance on the part of the new conductor. Many of the performers are engaged at Her Majesty's Theatre, where more noise can be tolerated, and is certainly encouraged, than is consistent with the size of the Hanover-square Rooms and the refinements proper to classical orchestral music. They are all, however, skilful artists, amenable to the intelligent direction and persistent counsels of a conductor who evidently has the requisite knowledge, and appears to possess the faculty of imparting it to the executants under his control.

The programme of the concert referred to was as follows:—

PART I.	
Symphony in C minor (No. 1).....	Mendelssohn.
Recited Aria, "Costanza," "Ah! tral timor" (Il Seraglio), Mr. W. H. Cummings .....	Mozart.
Overture, "The Naiads" .....	W. S. Bennett.
Romanza, "L'ombrosa notte vien" (Matilda), Miss Louisa Pyne .....	Hummel.
Concerto (No. 9), violin, Herr Joachim .....	Spohr.
PART II.	
Symphony in A (No. 7) .....	Beethoven.
Duo, "Pourquoi m'évitez-vous?" (La Reine de Saba), Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. H. Cummings .....	Gounod.
Overture, "Les Abencérages" .....	Cherubini.

Mendelssohn's symphony, composed when he was about fifteen, is worthy of a place in any classical concert programme on the strength of its own intrinsic merits; and viewed with reference to the composer's youthfulness at the time of its production, is one of the marvels of art history. Scarcely any work, even of Mozart (the other great instance of precocious musical genius), composed at so early an age, is so important in itself. The C minor symphony of Mendelssohn is full of that fiery impulse which characterizes many even of his later productions, although in these there is more of that idealism and abstract sublimity which he derived from his mature study of the grand works of Beethoven. The "andante," the most perfect movement of the symphony, possesses a repose of manner, an individuality of style, a perfect amalgamation of form, with a masterly instrumentation, that are truly marvellous in the production of a boy composer. The symphony of Beethoven is a link in that progressive chain which led to his final work of the kind, the ninth, or Choral Symphony, which seems to have realized the utmost sublimity of conception and grandeur of development in instrumental music. Much of the vastness of this idealism is foreshadowed in the seventh symphony, especially in its marvellous andante, so absolutely new in form and style. The two overtures stood in almost as strong contrast as the two symphonies, although for different reasons—that of Professor Bennett being characterized by an airy grace and delicacy, and that of Cherubini by power of constructive art and gorgeous treatment of orchestral effect, rather than by the freshness or importance of the ideas. One of the most prominent features of the concert was Herr Joachim's splendid performance of Spohr's admirable concerto—one of a long series of such works, the greatest of their class after the two exceptional concertos by Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Not even by Spohr himself, has this concerto been so magnificently interpreted as it is by Herr Joachim, who combines with all Spohr's grandeur of style and nobility of tone, a flexibility, an elasticity, and variety which Spohr wanted. The vocal music calls for small comment. The Romance by Hummel has somewhat of the grace, but none of the power or intensity of Mozart, whose pupil he was, and stood in rather disadvantageous comparison with the glowing and passionate song of the latter. Gounod's Duo has much elegance and occasional dramatic force, but reminds us, as we are too frequently reminded in his more recent music, of the only one of his grand operas ("Faust") that seems likely to retain any prolonged eminence. At the second concert on Monday week, that excellent pianist, Mdlle. Mehlig is to reappear; and for the fourth concert, on May 6, Beethoven's Choral Symphony is promised. New orchestral works are also spoken of, by M. Gounod, Mr. Sullivan, and probably Mr. Benedict—together with Professor Bennett's Symphony completed, instead of, as previously heard here, minus one movement.

Mr. Henry Leslie gave a second special concert on Wednesday last, with complete orchestra and enlarged chorus—the chief feature being a repetition of Mendelssohn's music to "Antigone," the first performance of which by Mr. Leslie we spoke of four weeks since. Admirably as it was given then, it gained by repetition, both performances being the finest which the music has yet received in this country. The incidental passages for solo voices derived much



importance from the admirable singing of Mr. Cummings. Instead of the imitative text being read as before, a few connecting narrative paragraphs were recited by Mr. Wallworth. Neither course, however, is admirable in a concert-room performance of music intended for stage action—it would be far better, in such case, to leave the dramatic accessories and characterization to the imagination of the audience, aided by the text printed in the programmes. The other portion of the concert consisted of a miscellaneous selection, instead of, as before, entirely of Mendelssohn's works. Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerto in G, with the composer's own cadenzas, was admirably played by Mr. Charles Hallé, whose thorough mastery, both mental and mechanical, was put to extreme proof by the uncertainty of the accompaniments in the final rondo. Cherubini's Overture, "Les Deux Journées," and Weber's to "Oberon," with some vocal pieces by Miss Ada Jackson and Mr. Cummings made up a concert of great interest.

#### THE LONDON THEATRES.

MR. HENRY LESLIE, whose talent for writing fiction of the *London Journal* order is considerable, and who has also a practical knowledge of the stage, produced a new four-act drama last Saturday at the Surrey Theatre, under the title of "Tide and Time." Mr. Leslie is clever in inventing situations and realistic scenes, but he wants the stage tact of Mr. Boucicault. His characters are nearly all mere puppets, who have no value except as workers out of the plot, and he sadly wants the art of condensation. His new drama is cleverly contrived to introduce several well-known London localities—Waterloo Bridge, the London Docks, and the Thames Embankment, the first painted by Mr. A. Callcott, the second by Mr. W. Callcott, and the third by Mr. W. Telbin. The chief characters are represented by Mr. Creswick, who is pompous; Mr. Shepherd, who is weak and hard; and by Miss G. Pouncefort, who is powerful and artistic. The minor performers seem to please the audience at this theatre by making as much noise as possible, the low comedians, of course, being the noisiest.

Mr. Charles Mathews, casting about for a piece which, if not new, is not very familiar to modern playgoers, has hit upon Foote's three-act comedy of "The Liar," which was first produced at Covent Garden in 1762. No play has probably been so frequently adapted by dramatic writers during more than two centuries. It was written—we are afraid to say originally—by Lopez de Vega; Corneille adapted it from the Spanish dramatist, and called it "Le Menteur;" Steele, not to mention others, adapted it from Corneille; and Foote, while pretending to go to Lopez de Vega for his materials, dipped quietly into Steele. Foote originally played the part of Young Wilding, the character now sustained by Mr. Charles Mathews, and it was a favourite part with Jack Bannister and Elliston. Mr. Mathews has condensed the three acts into two.

There is a rumour that the Olympic will again pass into the hands of Mr. W. S. Emden. St. Martin's Hall will be rebuilt, and opened as a theatre next October. No part of the present building will be left standing except the four main walls, the entrance hall, and the chief staircase. The first lessee has not yet been determined upon.

A little piece, transplanted from the Bouffes Parisiennes, with some of the original music by Leo Delibes, has been produced at Drury Lane this week to follow "Faust." It is called "Wanted—Husbands for Six," the adapter being Mr. Charles Kenny, and it is sufficiently absurd and well acted to be tolerable, even on such a wilderness, for farces, as the Drury Lane stage. It is very grotesque, and the music, what is given of it, is very lively.

#### SCIENCE.

M. THOMAS has made a communication to the Academy of Sciences on the discovery of the lower jaw of a species of rhinoceros in the Upper Eocene of the valley of the Tarn, near Gaillac. After summing up the facts, he expresses the opinion that rhinoceri of the species *Acerotherium* dwelt in France during the later Eocene period in conjunction with the *Palæotherium*, the *Palæotherium*, and the *Lophiodon*, and that consequently the first appearance of this genus on the globe must be relegated to the Upper Eocene, instead of to the Miocene epoch as is usually done.

A recent number of the *Journal of Botany* contains a communication from Mr. Gulliver on the pollen grains of certain allied plants which he finds present great differences both in size and roughness. The pollen grains of *Ranunculus acris* are rough, and very much larger than those of allied species, while *Lotus corniculatus* and *Lotus major*, which are sometimes declared to be identical species, present a most striking difference in the size of their pollen grains, those of *L. major* being invariably smaller than those of *L. corniculatus*.

A healthy leaf decomposes in sunshine far more carbonic acid than it forms in darkness. In eighteen experiments with oleander leaves exposed to the sun from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in an atmosphere rich in carbonic acid, a square metre of foliage decomposed on the average over a litre of carbonic acid per hour, while in darkness only  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a litre of carbonic acid were produced per hour. When completely deprived of oxygen, leaves, like animals, die from the impossibility of respiration. Carbonic oxide is not decomposable

by foliage, and M. Boussingault regards this fact as a confirmation of his view that leaves simultaneously decompose carbonic acid and water  $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{CO}, \text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2$ ;  $\text{O}_2$  being liberated.  $\text{CO}, \text{H}_2$  expresses the relation under which carbon is united with the elements of water in cellulose starch, sugar, &c., that is, in the important principles, elaborated by the leaves, the composition of which is represented by carbon and water.

General Morin gave a description of an anemometer, with an electric counter, which he had had constructed for the ventilation of the amphitheatre of the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, which has worked successfully for two years, whilst the battery employed (on the system of M. Marié-Davy) has not once required to be replenished with sulphate of mercury. The amount of air passing is registered in cubic metres, and may be read off every twelve hours, enabling the superintendent of the establishment to ascertain morning and evening, whether the air has been sufficiently renewed. It has been successfully applied to the Hospital of Lariboisière, and the hourly allowance per bed fixed at 60 metres, or 6,120 metres per hour for the 102 beds of this establishment. The results attained prove the apparatus to be a simple and efficacious plan for measuring and regulating the amount of air-supply desired, and one, moreover, little liable to derangement.

M. Jourdain has presented some observations to the academy "On the Structure of the Heart of Fishes of the Cod Genus." In 1858 Professor Hyrtl, of Vienna, published an interesting memoir on the absence of blood-vessels in the heart of certain vertebrata. He announced that the heart in the Batrachians is destitute of vessels, a peculiarity till then unknown. The heart in the osseous fishes presents an intermediate step between the non-vascular heart of the Batrachians, and the vascular heart of mammals and birds. Only one half the thickness of the parietes of the ventricles (the external layer) receives branches from the arterial system, the other half being totally destitute of any. Thus the heart of the osseous fishes may be designated a semi-vascular heart. The central organ of the circulation is thus constituted in the fish of our coasts, and the finest and most penetrating injections never reach beyond the external layer of the ventricle, the compact structure of which approaches that which we are accustomed to find in the heart of mammals and birds. The internal layer, on the contrary, in which the most careful examination fails to discover the least trace of vascularity, presents a soft and spongy texture, easily detached from the dense tissue of the external layer. The cod presents a remarkable exception. Like the heart of the Batrachians, that of the cod is destitute of vascularity. With this absence of vessels is associated a peculiar structure of the walls of the ventricles very analogous to that observed amongst Batrachians. The muscular fibres, instead of forming a dense and compact tissue, form bundles of flattened filaments which go on dividing and interlacing so as to produce an areolar and spongy mass. At the moment of diastole the venous blood flows into these irregular channels and vacuities, and the walls of the ventricle are pervaded like a sponge with this fluid, which is expelled by the succeeding systolic movement. The heart of the cod, like that of osseous fishes in general, being a venous heart, whilst the ventricle and the auricle are without vessels carrying red blood, it necessarily follows, that black or venous blood serves for the nutrition of its muscular fibres, and preserves their contractility.

M. Milliot has presented a memoir to the Academy on the important question of the regeneration of the crystalline lens when extracted in a state of health. The animals are operated upon under chloroform, and in order to facilitate healing of the cornea, the eyelids are closed by one or two sutures, which ordinarily fall between the third and the fifth day when the operation proceeds successfully, but earlier should suppuration of the eye take place. The results of M. Milliot's experiments incontestably prove the regeneration of the lens, and that its vessels follow, in the order of their reappearance, the phases presented during their generation at the period of their embryonic evolution. The regeneration commences in general at the end of the second week after the operation, and is not complete till some time between the fifth or twelfth month, or even longer if the animal be aged.

We had occasion some time since to point out the more than superficiality of the logic which formed the basis of Darwinism; the negation of common sense involved in the idea that a symmetrical structure could arise out of a fortuitous application of forces. We are glad to see how closely our views on the subject are shared by the most accomplished of British philosophers, Sir John Herschel, who, in a note in his "Familiar Lectures on Scientific Subjects," indicates his sense of its absurdity, by comparing it with one of Swift's Laputan speculations, as follows:—"His plan for writing books by the concurrence of accidental letters, and selection of such combinations as form syllables, words, and sentences, has a close parallel in the learned theories of the production of the existing races of animals by natural selection."

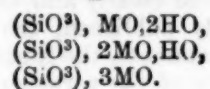
M. E. Fremy has presented a communication to the Academy of Sciences on certain isomeric states of silicic acid, and on the plurality of atom forms (polyatomicité) of acids. The phenomena relating to the modifications of atom forms are daily assuming more importance as a branch of chemical science. They apply equally to mineral substances and organic bodies, and in an especial degree to isomerism, of which they seem to offer an explanation. M. Fremy has occupied himself in studying the causes which occasion the affinity of acids for bases to vary, and in showing that the isomeric states of an acid are due to different degrees of condensation of its molecules. Thus he represents the two stannic acids by the formulæ  $\text{SnO}_2$ ,  $\text{Sn}^{\text{O}}\text{O}^{\text{O}}$ . He regards all vegetable



gelatinous matter as derivable from the molecule  $C^8H^8O^7$ , as indicated in the following formulæ:—

Acid metapeptic .....	$C^8H^8O^7$
Acid parapectic .....	$(C^8H^8O^7)^3$
Acid pectic .....	$(C^8H^8O^7)^4$
Pectine .....	$(C^8H^8O^7)^8$

Chemical agents have the power to cause a molecule of acid to pass through several isomeric states, developing its capacity for combination and simplifying its equivalent. M. Fremy had often attempted to apply these views on isomerism to silicic acid, which, as is well known, presents itself under different allotropic states, and is found in nature combined with bases in such different proportions. His attempts were vain, till he recently discovered the important fact that the two principal isomeric forms of silicic acid have different equivalents, and that in uniting themselves to bases, they form two series of salts differing from each other by their properties. There are two forms of silicic acid, which differ from each other by broad distinctions, quartz, which is insoluble in weak alkaline solutions, and has a specific gravity of 2.6. The other obtained by decomposing the fluoride of silicon, with water, and calcining the hydrate, which dissolves in alkaline solutions, and has a specific gravity of only 2.2. Leaving the name of *silicic acid* to quartz, M. Fremy has given that of *metasilicic acid* to the body obtained from chloride of silicon. The latter forms with alkaline bases salts which it would be impossible to confound with those produced from quartz. The alkaline metasilicates are soluble in water, gummy and uncrystallizable, and in order to obtain them in a solid form, it is necessary to precipitate them with alcohol. Metasilicic acid is triatomic, and its hydrate is represented by the formula  $(SiO^3)^3 3HO$ . In presence of a base it loses successively the three atoms of water, which are replaced by equivalent quantities of the base, so as to form the following series:—



## MONEY AND COMMERCE.

### THE MONEY MARKET.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THE general features of the money market continue without change. The Bank rate remains at 3 per cent., but the best bills can be readily cashed at an eighth to a quarter per cent. less. On the Stock Exchange loans have this week been in exceptional demand owing to the occurrence of the fortnightly settlement in foreign stocks and shares, but advances on Government securities are easily negotiated at 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. After the present week, it seems almost certain that the charge will be little more than nominal since the purchases on account of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt representing a surplus of revenue for the last quarter of £463,273 available for the sinking fund have just commenced. As the stock thus bought is entirely for money, and not for speculation, a fact that is perfectly well known to the dealers, it is seen that very shortly loans on the Stock Exchange must become cheaper than ever. Besides this, it may be observed that the rates of discount are falling on the Continent. Early in the week, the Banks of Holland and Prussia announced a simultaneous reduction to 3 per cent., and there seems little doubt that this decline will be followed in several other parts of the Continent. We have already had occasion to remark that in whatever way it may be described this symptom is by no means favourable. It does not foreshadow general prosperity, and a consequently increased creation of capital, but, on the other hand, that business is so slack that the supply of money is more than equal to the demand. In these days when the general economy of commerce is at least fairly understood, it demands but little discrimination to tell when a low rate of interest simply means a decreasing trade.

It is a general characteristic of modern commerce that what is called the displacement of capital occurs, or at least can occur only after a long interval. For example, the iron trade a few years ago was apparently so little prosperous, that ironmasters were only too glad to clear a fair 3 per cent. Often they were obliged to be satisfied with less, or even with no return at all. According to the laws of political economy, the masters would at once have realized their capital as fast as they could, and turned it to more profitable purposes, such as cotton manufactures, &c., which would have paid 10 or 15 per cent. Perhaps they might, according to theory. But theorists invariably overlook practical difficulties. It is not so easy to realize invested capital. If the process consists merely in selling out a quantity of consols or railway stock, the affair can be managed at once; it is, however, a far difficult matter to sell on fair terms a mine or a factory. Somehow or other the matter is, after much trouble and delay, arranged. Perhaps the property is parted with at a considerable loss; in extreme cases, such as we

have seen in the Cornish mines, it is abandoned altogether. As long, however, as a reasonable expectation is shown that a fair profit may be looked for, even some years hence, partly from consideration for their workmen, and partly from old associations, proprietors are disinclined to close their works. They are actuated, in fact, by much the same feeling as a landowner who will submit to any inconvenience rather than sell his estate.

The parallel exists in the City. A great banker or bill discounter is proud of his name and his house. Having more money than he knows what to do with, tired most likely with the drudgery of work, he still attends his office in the City punctually from ten in the morning until five or six in the afternoon, for the sole purpose of keeping up his name. At first sight no life could appear more wasted or more selfish. Like many *prima facie* conclusions, however, this idea is easily proved to be wrong. There is a national advantage, often the theme of national exultation, in possessing a race of merchant princes. But if a trader were to retire when he had made, say thirty or forty thousand pounds, we should have no merchant princes at all. The great houses would be at an end, and it is but just to consider that the great houses naturally take the lead in enterprise and business. It is they who, competent to bear the loss of a hundred thousand pounds without material injury, can afford, in opening a new source of trade to undergo a heavy risk in order to realize a large though prospective profit. The channel once explored, smaller merchants step in. Their gains are certainly much less, but at all events they are rendered tolerably sure by the experience of their wealthy predecessors.

Nevertheless, as regards the discount market, there seems certain grooves in which almost every house or company moves. If the Bank charges 10 per cent., they require not merely 10 but often 12. If the rate should fall to 3 per cent., then money in the open market can be got easily at  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , and not unfrequently at  $2\frac{1}{4}$ . For some unaccountable reason, there seems to be an idea that the decreasing rates of discount on the Continent will cause money to be transmitted for employment here. It is difficult to see what advantage can be gained looking at the question merely in a commercial point of view. Foreigners can hardly expect to get, by discounting the best bills—and they will look at none else—more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. In their own countries the rate averages about 3 per cent. Why should they take the risk and trouble of sending money over here for the sake of an infinitesimal profit?

The stock markets continue generally quiet. The public still show a desire to invest in consols, simply because they distrust all other securities. Railway stocks seem at as low an ebb as ever. Decreased dividends (even with augmented traffic) and financial difficulties, real or reported, seem to have smitten the public with a distrust, which seems impossible to be shaken off. A report, probably unauthorized, that Mr. Laing had quitted the direction of the Great Eastern Railway caused, yesterday afternoon, a general decline. It appears singular that a rumour of this sort should affect property to an extent of depreciating it by not merely thousands, but millions.

Foreign securities, at least those of the new loans, are little cared for. Chilean scrip has fallen to a seemingly permanent discount, and as regards the new Danubian Loan, the operation of bringing it back to its former premium has been abandoned as hopeless. A circular to the effect that defaulting subscribers would be legally proceeded against at once is not calculated to inspire confidence. It cannot be denied, however, that the public is in this respect chiefly to blame. The operation was fair and legitimate, far more so than many other foreign loans brought before the English public, only it happens to come at a wrong moment.

There is little to be said about the future. The Fenian movement disturbed for a time the ordinary progress of commerce; but this has pretty nearly passed away. There are strong signs of an increasing abundance of capital, not, as we have said, that this is to be in itself welcomed, but rather concomitant with a decreased demand for labour. By degrees things will right themselves, but financial convulsions cannot be got over more easily, but rather with more difficulty, than those that are purely political. A disruption in the money market lasts longer, and has more serious consequences, than most people suppose.

THE quotation of gold at Paris is about at par, and the short exchange on London is  $25\frac{1}{2}$  per £1 sterling. On comparing these rates with the English Mint price of £3. 17s. 10½d. per ounce for standard gold, it appears that gold is nearly 2-10ths per cent. dearer in Paris than in London.

The course of exchange at New York on London for bills at 60 days' sight was on the 11th inst. about 108½ per cent. At this rate there is no profit on the importation of gold from the United States.



## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

## PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND.\*

THE design of this book is excellent, and the execution is entitled to scarcely less praise. We have an abundance of works on the theory of the British constitution, but they deal too much in generalities to be of great use to any one who desires to study its practical working. They display, with more or less clearness, the principles on which the machine is constructed, but they do not show it in practical action. Many of them are, indeed, to a great extent obsolete, because they ignore the gradual changes which have taken place in our political system during the last half-century, and merely repeat old formulas and fictions, without reference to the actual state of things which underlies them. On the other hand, the scope of Sir E. May's valuable treatise on "The Usages of Parliament" is too limited to supply a complete view of the whole subject. In England we are so thoroughly accustomed to the smooth working of our legislative and administrative system, that we may without material inconvenience overlook the conditions on which this result depends. But in the colonies, where responsible government is a new growth, and there is no political tradition to guide and govern its action, it is necessary to settle with more precision the limits of Ministerial and Parliamentary power, and to prevent by well-defined rules their tendency to mutual encroachments on each other. It is to this necessity that we owe Mr. Todd's book; and although at first sight it seems rather odd that it should be left to a Canadian to enlighten us on the real action of our own institutions, there is in fact no occasion for surprise. Mr. Todd is the librarian of the Legislative Assembly of Canada. Some twenty-five years ago, while filling a subordinate position under the Provincial Assembly of Upper Canada, he compiled a manual of Parliamentary practice for the use of the Legislature. When the two provinces were subsequently united, his work was adopted for the use of the members of the Assembly; and owing to the circumstance of his having written it he was, after the introduction of responsible government into the colony, frequently consulted upon the many difficult and complex questions which arose, especially in regard to the relations which should subsist between the popular chamber and the Ministers of the Crown. In the course of the researches which he made into English Parliamentary precedents in order to answer these inquiries, he accumulated a mass of information which he has digested into the present work.

Mr. Todd is evidently a very Conservative politician, and "the general introduction" with which he has prefaced his work contains many opinions on the political questions of the day which we should be disposed to question if this were the place to do so. His views are strongly influenced by a fear of the advancing tide of democracy, and by apprehensions arising out of what he deems the growing weakness of executive authority. It is sufficient for us to say that we do not share these views. As they do not, however, affect the really valuable portions of the book, we may safely pass them over with this general caveat. It is more important to point out that Mr. Todd is by no means so critical as he should be in his citation of authorities. The observations of newspapers and periodicals are valuable in their way, but they are hardly the sources from which we should expect to derive constitutional rules or principles. The speeches of members of Parliament, delivered in their places, are of course entitled to more attention, because, if their views pass without contradiction, they may be taken to have obtained the assent of the Assembly; but even under this head Mr. Todd frequently quotes remarks which are either intrinsically unimportant, or are valueless, as coming from those whose opinions derive no weight either from their character or position. It is an old saying and a sound one, that authorities should be weighed, and not counted; and when we have said that this is sometimes lost sight of by our author, we shall have done with fault-finding. Everything else we have to say will be in way of commendation. The industry displayed in the collection of precedents is not less remarkable than the clear, convenient, and systematic way in which the matter is arranged. The style is lucid, vigorous, and exact; and Mr. Todd's comments on the points of doubt or dispute are generally characterized by sound sense, impartiality, and acuteness. The general plan of the book is exceedingly good. Under each head we have a statement of the law or practice as the author conceives it to be settled, and this is followed by a brief statement (in smaller type) of the particular transactions from which the rule is gathered. A double advantage is gained by this. Students can thus check the deductions of the author as they go on; while those who have occasion to avail themselves of the work for practical purposes are furnished with a complete armoury of authorities, which can be cited as occasion requires.

Let us now endeavour to convey some idea of the scope and contents of the work. After the general introduction, to which we need not further allude, we have an historical introduction. The first portion of the latter is devoted to tracing the rise and growth of Ministerial responsibility. It traverses, in a great measure, ground more minutely gone over in Sir E. May's "Constitutional History," for which it is hardly a sufficient substitute. The second portion, however, giving a brief account of the successive Administrations of England since 1782, and of the circumstances attending their appointment, resignation, or dismissal, will be found very useful for

casual reference, especially as it is brought down to the formation of the Government now in office, and thus contains information which must otherwise be sought for in the newspapers or periodicals of the last twenty years. In the next chapter, the position and right of the Sovereign in regard to his Ministers are very fully considered; and we then enter upon the larger subject of the Royal prerogative in connection with Parliament. Under this head Mr. Todd discusses almost all the questions which arise between Parliament and the Executive Government in regard to the nature and limits of their respective functions. Not only are the general principles which govern the relations between Parliament and Ministers of the Crown in matters of administration very clearly laid down, but we have a careful inquiry into the practice of Parliament in the appointment of select committees to inquire into administrative questions, in regard to the granting or withholding of information desired by either branch of the Legislature, and into the circumstances which may require the interposition of Parliament to prevent the illegal exercise of authority in relation to a variety of matters. The prerogative, as it is actually exercised and is practically limited, in regard to matters ecclesiastical, to the army and navy, and a number of other subjects, is then considered; while the subject of supply and taxation is treated with a care and minuteness which leave little to desire. Mr. Todd is not content with laying down general principles, but he follows them out into their detailed application in every-day political life. Under this head, any one who requires it will find full information on such topics, for instance, as to the proceedings on the estimates in committee of supply, or votes "on account," on the effect given to supply votes in anticipation of the Appropriation Act, and on a host of other points, from amongst which we can only select at random the few we have mentioned, in order to show the practical character of the work. The section which is devoted to the Parliamentary control over the issue and expenditure of public money explains more clearly and far more fully than it is done in works previously published, the whole system of the exchequer and audit departments, the functions of the Treasury in controlling the expenditure of the various offices, the duties of the committee on public accounts. In connection with this part of the subject, Mr. Todd gives us a list of the cases in which sums have been struck out of the estimates in committee of supply during the last few years, and as this throws some light upon the vexed question whether private members who devote themselves to the arduous duty of checking these estimates really reap an adequate return for their labour, we shall borrow it from his pages:—

"In 1858, the salary of the travelling agent of the National Gallery, amounting to £300, was disallowed; in 1859, the salary of the Registrar of Sasines; but on recommitment this was agreed to. On August 1, 1859, the vote of £2,361 for the Statute Law Consolidation Commission was rejected. In 1860, the following items were rejected:—On July 23, £1,200 for erecting a building to hold the Wellington funeral car; on August 3, £1,600 for two statues of British sovereigns in the new Houses of Parliament; on August 14, £800 for extra clerks at the Board of Trade; and on August 15, the vote to defray the salary of Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland was reduced by £1,000, but this was agreed to by the Government, as they contemplated the abolition of the office. In 1861, the Government submitted a smaller vote (£340) for the removal of the Wellington car to the crypt of St. Paul's, which was agreed to. The vote for the statues in the new Houses of Parliament was also again submitted and agreed to. In the same year, on June 6, the navy estimates were reduced by £3,225, being an item for the extension of the Chatham Dockyard, a work which, if sanctioned by the House, would have occasioned an ultimate expenditure of over £900,000. In 1862, on March 6, a vote of £10,787 for enlarging the Royal Military College at Sandhurst was negatived, but afterwards, on March 13, reconsidered, and, on satisfactory explanations from Government, agreed to; on April 28, a vote of £5,000 for Highland roads and bridges was negatived. In 1863, on June 4, an item of £400 for a clerk of the works at Constantinople was rejected; on July 2, a vote of £105,000 for the purchase, &c. of the Exhibition buildings at South Kensington was negatived; on July 10, a proposed item of £6,000 for expenses connected with the Thames Embankment Bill of 1862, being objected to, was withdrawn. In 1864, on May 2 (upon motion of the Secretary of the Admiralty), an item of £5,000, intended to be applied towards the construction of a dock at Malta, was negatived, to admit of further information being obtained as to the proper site of the dock, agreeably to suggestions made by Opposition members in the House of Commons; on May 30, a vote of £4,000 for the erection of a lunatic asylum in the Isle of Man (but in the following session this vote was again proposed and agreed to), and on June 6, a vote of £10,000 (on account of a total estimate of £150,000) towards the erection of a new National Gallery at Burlington House, were severally negatived. In 1865, and in 1866, all the supply votes submitted by Government were agreed to by the House of Commons."

This is certainly rather a beggarly list when we recollect the profuse expenditure which has taken place during the years in question; but then it must be recollected that the check exercised by members like the late Mr. Hume is far less efficacious in striking out votes than in preventing their being proposed. And although it is true that, with one exception, no vote included in the above list is much above £10,000, while the majority are far below that sum, still in at least two cases the vote which was refused would if granted have entailed an enormous subsequent expenditure, and this must be taken into account in any fair estimate of the sums saved to the country by members who undertake the thankless office of watching the proceedings in committees of supply. The fact remains, however, as Mr. Todd says, that as a general

\* On Parliamentary Government in England; its Origin, Development, and Practical Operation. By Alpheus Todd, Librarian of the Legislative Assembly of Canada. Two vols. London: Longmans, Green, & Co.



rule, "whatever sums Ministers have stated to be required for the use of the State, the Commons have freely granted." "The more the pity," say we; but that it is so arises, we are convinced, not from any inherent difficulty in curbing administrative extravagance, but in the shameful negligence with which the bulk of the House of Commons treat one, and that not the least important, of their functions.

The concluding portion of the work is devoted to the consideration of matters wherein the Sovereign represents the State in dealings with foreign Powers; and this terminates the discussion of the relations between Parliament and the Sovereign. In a second volume Mr. Todd proposes to deal with the origin, development, and present position of the Cabinet Council in the English Constitution, the relative position and political functions of the several members of the Constitution, the conduct of public business by the Government in Parliament, and the proceedings in Parliament against judges for misconduct in office. We state thus much by anticipation, as it is only fair to Mr. Todd to exhibit his plan in a complete form. It is very difficult to convey, except in general terms, an idea of the mode in which so large a scheme is worked out. It embraces so many topics, and deals with so many details, that it is quite impossible to enter upon anything like an examination of any of the sections into which the work is divided. All we can say is that, so far as some knowledge and experience of Parliamentary proceedings entitles us to offer an opinion, the information which it contains is both full and accurate; while the admirable way in which it is arranged renders it easy to refer to any point which may be under discussion. It is certainly a valuable, as it was a much required, contribution to our political literature. A great amount of ignorance prevails amongst even well-informed persons as to the actual working of our Administrative and Parliamentary system, and as to the checks, safeguards, and rules, by which its action is regulated and controlled. But with Mr. Todd's assistance, a very moderate amount of application will now enable any one to form an accurate idea both of the extent and functions of the different powers in the State, and of the mode in which their harmonious action is maintained from day to day. To the practical politician its utility as an ample and well-arranged store of precedents can scarcely be exaggerated.

#### SIR CHARLES WOOD'S INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.\*

MR. ALGERNON WEST has had excellent opportunities for observing and chronicling the course of our Indian Government since the extinction of the Company. He holds at present a high and responsible position in the financial department of the India Office, and had previously been private secretary to Sir Charles Wood and Earl De Grey. The volume before us professes to deal with the administrative history of India from June, 1859, to January, 1866. Such a work properly executed would possess a peculiar value. At present, those who desire to master the contemporary annals of our Eastern Empire have no choice but to wade through an incoherent mass of partisan newspapers and pamphlets, always prejudiced in opinion, and often mistaken in matter of fact; or to confine their studies to the aggregation of parliamentary papers, official minutes, and piles of statistics. A fair and well-digested *résumé* of facts, accompanied or not by a reasonable, moderate judgment upon the policy of the India Office since its elevation to the rank of a department of State, would have met and satisfied a public want; and this at least we were entitled to expect from Mr. West. It must be admitted, we fear, that the book will disappoint most readers, and, except on one or two minor topics, will fail to obtain any authority. In fact, however good Mr. West's opportunities may have been, he has not made the most of them. He has confined himself, for what reason we cannot say, within limits ridiculously narrow. In 179 pages he attempts to treat of Indian administration during seven years, to chronicle the progress that was made in fifteen or sixteen departments of the public service, and he is, consequently, compelled to resign all pretension to detail, and to touch even on the most important points in a cursory fashion. Thus we find the chapters devoted to the questions perhaps most vital to India—namely, land revenue, public works, and police—consist respectively of but eight, six, and three pages of large print. We need not say that a volume might be written on each of these. There are, however, other faults in Mr. West's book quite as fatal to its reputation as an authority as its meagre store of facts. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that the style is not calculated to excuse the defects in the matter; it is, indeed, that stiff and stilted official style with which all who are accustomed to read the minutes and other documents emanating from the India Office must be quite familiar—the least proper that can be conceived for imparting to a necessarily dry subject some freshness of interest. But even the brevity and lack of vigour of Mr. West's work might be endured if we could rely with any degree of confidence upon the impartiality of the author. Unluckily we cannot bestow this praise upon Mr. West. No doubt, his personal and official connection with Sir Charles Wood rendered a certain amount of roseate colouring in this record of that statesman's acts inevitable; but we were unprepared, we admit, for the monotonous hymn of praise that the late private secretary chants in honour of his superior.

\* Sir Charles Wood's Administration of Indian Affairs, from 1859 to 1866. By Algernon West. London: Smith, Elder, & Co.

We do not by any means entertain a mean opinion of the ability, the integrity, and the assiduity of the statesman, whom we should speak of more properly, but less familiarly, in relation to Indian affairs, as Viscount Halifax. A lack of debating power and a certain indecision of character prevented his administrative talent from being generally appreciated in the Lower House; but few who have watched the working of the Government by a Minister responsible to Parliament will refuse him the credit of moderation and impartiality. In this respect he has been treated with unfairness in certain comparisons drawn even by Liberal journals between him and Lord Cranborne. The latter has, we know not how, come in for an amount of indiscriminate praise to which he has no real claim; it may be indeed through a mere reaction of public opinion which expected to find him an incompetent and intractable Indian Secretary, and was surprised in consequence to find him a tolerable one. But Sir Charles Wood was something more than tolerable, though he was decidedly very far from being what an Indian Secretary ought, in ideal, to be.

We do not join Mr. West in his extravagant and uniform praise of his late chief, nor do we, on the other hand, endorse the reckless charges of incapacity with which some Tory journals were disposed to salute the retirement from place of a meritorious public servant. In personal questions, and matters of detail, Sir Charles Wood's conduct was generally deserving of all praise; but his policy was deficient both in originality and in method. That he was wanting in these qualities was, indeed, an easy inference from those extraordinary budgets which excited so much criticism and ridicule during Lord John Russell's first Administration 1846–51. The same defects which were apparent in the Chancellor of the Exchequer were to be marked in the Indian Minister, and if less exposed to the public view, were perhaps even more injurious in the latter case. The Government of our Eastern dependencies demands, more than any other department of State, an intelligence capable of quitting the official groove, and of throwing off the trammels of precedent; it demands, also, a policy wide as well as far-reaching in view, based upon principles, not on temporary suggestions of expediency. Sir Charles Wood's régime did not even pretend to these merits: it was essentially Conservative, bureaucratic, and wanting in system.

We shall presently consider one or two of the points in which we conceive Mr. West's laudation of his chief to be undeserved. But we are glad, first, to notice an important crisis in which Sir Charles Wood acted with an independence and vigour unwonted in him. We refer to the attempts made in 1860 and 1861 by the indigo planters of Lower Bengal, backed by the majority of the Council at Calcutta, to carry an alteration in the Penal Code, raising breach of contract, on the part of the ryot, into a criminal offence. As has been subsequently proved by the evidence taken before a Commission appointed by Lord Canning in 1860, the indigo culture is unremunerative to the ryot, and contracts were in most cases forced. The Government, therefore, were fully justified in refusing to encourage such a state of things by a violent legal change.

How important it was that the demands of the planters should not be conceded will be seen by the following extract:—

"In the autumn of 1860 things were indeed critical. 'I assure you,' said Lord Canning, 'that for about a week it caused me more anxiety than I have had since the days of Delhi,' and Lord Canning was not a man who was easily made anxious. Sir John Peter Grant, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, had just returned from an excursion to the works on the Dacca railway. During his journey, which was entirely unexpected, up the river Jumoonah, numerous crowds of ryots appeared at various places, whose whole prayer was that they should not cultivate indigo. On his return, two days afterwards, from Serajgunge by the rivers Koomar and Kalligunga, which ran south of the Ganges, both banks of the river for a whole day's voyage (70 or 80 miles) were lined by thousands of people, the men running by the steamer, the women sitting by the water's edge, the inhabitants of each village taking up the running in succession, and crying to him for justice, but all respectful and orderly. 'The organization and capacity,' said the Lieutenant-Governor, 'for combined and simultaneous action in the cause, which this remarkable demonstration over so large an extent of country proved, are subjects worthy of much consideration.'

"'From that day,' wrote Lord Canning, 'I felt that a shot fired in anger or fear by one foolish planter might put every factory in Lower Bengal in flames.'

A Bill passed by the Legislative Council in the planters' interest was transmitted to Sir Charles Wood, who intimated to Lord Canning his determination not to sanction it. In this course he persisted in spite of much pressure, and his example has been followed by his successors. We fully concur with Mr. West's observations on this head—

"Sir Charles Wood's desire that the Bill proposed should be withdrawn, gave rise to many complaints of his over-riding the Government of India; but this surely was a more courteous act, and less embarrassing to that Government, than if he had permitted the Bill to pass, and then refused his sanction to its enactment. Had he declined in this instance to avail himself of the controlling power vested in the Secretary of State, and allowed the Government of India to sacrifice the interests of the people to the unreasonable demands of a small interested class, he would have abdicated the real vital function of the Home Government."

Cotton, as well as indigo, has given rise to many disputes among Indian residents and officials. It would seem that while Sir Charles Wood might have encouraged more than he did the cultivation of



the former staple, he was in the main right in his refusal to accede to the extreme demands of the Manchester speculators.

The questions which Sir Charles Wood has either left untouched or which he has disturbed by a weak policy are numerous and, unhappily, most vital. In speaking of them Mr. West awards his former superior unqualified praise, without attempting ordinarily to support this praise by argument. Indeed, it is not easy to see any argument in favour of the *laissez-faire* policy of the India Office in regard to land tenure, and revenue, and public works. Take the land question. What has been done in the eight years that have elapsed since the decease of the Company? We still hear of disputes between the Government and zemindars, even in Bengal. In Orissa the perpetual settlement has been delayed at the cost of a terrible famine. In Madras and Bombay the condition of the ryots is as uncertain, and consequently as wretched, as ever. In the North-West Provinces we believe the village assessment has not yet been fixed upon an equitable basis. In fact, the relations between the revenue officials, and the natives are so unsatisfactory that the slightest popular agitation must be looked on as perilous. If we turn to the public works, on the strength of which we find Mr. West especially reposes the case for his chief, we see feeble and partial endeavours, often misdirected, always insufficient, to cope with the two great wants of India—imperfect communications, and scarcity of water. It is acknowledged by everybody outside the bureaux that the resources of Government are inadequate to make railways and canals as rapidly as the country needs them. Private enterprise in India, as elsewhere, is required for these national works, and English capital only awaits encouragement and permission to flow in and create wealth. But the tradition of the old Company was the exclusion of interlopers; and by that tradition Sir Charles Wood was enslaved. The present Governor-General is a follower of the same faith. Both, in many cases, especially in that of the East India Irrigation and Canal Company, have thrown obstacles in the way of English capital and skill.

We shall not attempt to follow Mr. West through his exposition of the intricacies of Indian finance. Success or failure in this department was due rather to the Finance Ministers—to Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Laing, Sir Charles Trevelyan, and Mr. Massey—than to the Secretary of State. But in relation to these questions, we may advert to an act of Sir Charles Wood's deserving of much censure, which Mr. West lightly passes over. We refer to the appointment of Sir C. Trevelyan as Financial Secretary. Whether that official was competent to discharge the duties of his post we shall not presume to decide, though the disallowance of his budget by Sir Charles Wood may cast some doubt upon his ability as a financier. But his conduct in reference to Mr. Wilson's first budget, against which he issued a minute as Governor of Madras, and which resulted in his recall, showed that he had no sense of official propriety. His promotion on Mr. Laing's retirement was therefore generally and justly considered an unwise act.

We had intended to say something respecting Sir Charles Wood's policy towards the dependent States. Here, as elsewhere, it was vacillating and weak,—professions to hold by the principles of Lord Canning's proclamation, but often, as in the case of the Mysore raj, the succession of the Nawab of the Carnatic, and some minor instances, running counter to those principles. We cannot, however, enter into the details of those unlucky disputes which seem likely to give us more and more trouble every day. A feeling of insecurity and uncertainty almost universal among Anglo-Indians ought to warn us that our Indian empire is not yet fixed on the firm foundations of a liberal and comprehensive policy; nor will it be until a statesman of a different type from Sir Charles Wood, or Earl De Grey, or Lord Cranborne, assumes the guidance of affairs.

#### HALF ROUND THE OLD WORLD.\*

THIS volume is not without evidence that Viscount Pollington might have written a book of travel worth reading if he had taken the requisite pains. But it would not be easy to exceed the flippancy of his style, or the trifling spirit in which he treats his subject, or the carelessness with which he has put his matter together. On the very first page, after stating that he left London on such a day by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, he adds—"This may appear a somewhat unimportant fact, but we had for our fellow traveller an old lady who insisted to her companion that all hotels throughout the inhabited globe called 'The Chatham' belong to this company." We do not see the connection between the two facts, or why Viscount Pollington's departure on his travels was at all more important because an old lady riding in the same carriage with him made a mistake. The old lady is evidently lugged in to enable Viscount Pollington to make what he considers a witty remark. Immediately on the top of this, he states that he had to pay duty on a saddle in order to have it conveyed through Prussia; that in addition to this saddle he had "invested in a most useful travelling dressing-case calculated to hold nothing in the smallest possible space;" that some one made the observation "that in Prussia the difference between the several classes of carriages on the railway apparently is, that the first class only hold six upon velvet, and the second class eight upon leather, the third class as many as it will hold upon wood, and the fourth

\* Half Round the Old World; being some Account of a Tour in Russia, the Caucasus, Persia, and Turkey, 1865-66. By Viscount Pollington, M.A., F.R.G.S. London: Edward Moxon & Co.

as many as can stand upon their feet." These passages follow one another without the slightest connection, leaving an impression that the old lady's conversation must have exercised a permanent influence upon Viscount Pollington's mind. We hope that better things are in store for us presently, and that, at all events, when he arrives at St. Petersburg, which he does in the middle of page 4, he will tell us something that is worth listening to, even though he may describe again what has been described before. But his lordship's capacity for getting over ground rapidly is wonderful. Of the city generally, all that he says is that he found it a "city of magnificent distances;" and that the way in which each house selects its own pavement presents a "tout ensemble" which is "horrible." Hear what he says of some of its principal features:—"Admired the statue of Peter the Great on horseback, and the Admiralty-place—the horse is rearing and trampling on a snake!—why?" Surely one need not be a viscount, a Master of Arts, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society to answer so simple a question as that. The "Hermitage" is almost as summarily dismissed:—"Magnificent dark marble caryatid negroes in front; we went upstairs, but words would fail to express the magnificence of the rooms"—assuredly, if their efficacy is not even tried;—"we then went on into the first floor, and saw some Roman antiquities, including a shepherd with a very servile expression, and a stupendous greenish marble vase in Siberian jasper, some twelve feet long by five broad, on a fine pedestal of the same material;" and so on for something more than a page he catalogues the treasures of the "Hermitage" with as much zest and appreciation as he mentions the "quass" in which he indulged immediately after inspecting the "Hermitage"—"a liquid of a yellow colour, somewhat like very sour lemonade." Isaac's Cathedral surely was worth more than our author has said of it, if it was to be mentioned at all. "On the 30th we entered Isaac's Cathedral to witness a Greek service, where all the congregation stand, and perpetually keep bowing like the Chinese porcelain figures. The singing of the concealed choir is, however, very impressive." Viscount Pollington might have made an effort to ascertain what the congregation were "bowing" for, especially as he visited the cathedral expressly to see the Greek service, and, we presume, had some desire to understand it. He need not, at all events, have spoken of the congregation in contemptuous terms, when, possibly, the only fact deserving of contempt was his own ignorance. If all travellers were to visit churches abroad in this spirit—and too many of them do—the comparison to Chinese porcelain figures would be more applicable to them than to the congregations they criticise. Viscount Pollington seems to think that because his book is, as he tells us in his preface, "an almost exact transcription of a diary kept during the interval between August and April, 1865-66," its contents may be allowed to pass current. But a flippant and trivial book is not to be excused because in its original state it was a diary; nor is the fact that a man may write any puerilities he likes when he is writing only for himself a reason why he should inflict them on the public. Viscount Pollington can do better if he pleases, though not by making such superficial observations as that with which he honoured the congregation in Isaac's Cathedral. A work of travels is not complete without some description of the inhabitants of the countries visited, beyond a mere glance at their dress or stature. Viscount Pollington seems to despise writers who have laboriously "culled such information" from the pages of encyclopædias. But they are to be preferred to those who do not give it at all.

#### RECENT CLASSICAL SCHOOL BOOKS.\*

In the subjoined list of classical works, for the use of schools, we find very much to commend, and very little to condemn. Mr. Wilkins' "Scriptores Attici" is by far the best collection of Greek prose excerpts for school-boys we have yet seen. The selections are usefully varied in style, and all more or less characteristic of their respective authors, and, what is of no slight advantage, they are sufficiently interesting to arrest the attention of the young. The notes are very carefully done, and, as far as we have examined, no real difficulty in the language or allusions is shirked. The silent contempt of difficulties is, we know, a fault too common with some annotators on classical books. The notes at times enter fully and freely into the subject-matter, and render it clearer and more interesting to the learner. It is to be regretted that in some of his notes Mr. Wilkins explains words and phrases too much apart from their literal or primitive meaning—a very grave error, we conceive, when we have to deal with young students. We are told, in the volume before us, that *γράφειν τινα* means "to impeach a man," but the primitive connection between the meaning here correctly assigned and the original sense of the word in the middle voice "to get a man's name written down" is altogether ignored; *συμψέπει* is, we are told, "literally explained" as meaning "it was for their advantage." Now literally the Greek expression is not as Mr. Wilkins gives it, it is neither more nor less than "it brought (something) with it."

\* Scriptores Attici. By the Rev. H. M. Wilkins. London: Longmans. Progressive Exercises in Greek Verse. By E. Walford. London: Longmans. Sophocles' Electra. By R. C. Jebb. London: Rivingtons. Cicero's Epistolarum Delectus. By St. John Parry. London: Longmans. Cornelius Nepos. By Dr. White. London: Longmans. Eutropius. By Dr. White. London: Longmans. First Latin Parsing Book. By Dr. White. London: Longmans. Praxis Latina Primaria. By Dr. Collis. London: Longmans.



It is exactly analogous to the Latin corresponding expression "refert" (*rem fert*—"it brings business or gain"), in this case Mr. Wilkins, while professing to give the literal meaning, has gone out of his way to miss it, and has failed to note its Latin equivalent. Similarly we have τὸς ἐπιτύχονας μύθους translated as "any stories." We trust that Mr. Wilkins will forgive us for saying that it would be more to the purpose had this last phrase been translated as "the stories you may happen upon anywhere," if we are to teach boys to translate not only literally, but to learn to trace the connection that exists between the different gradations of meaning in the same word and its compounds—a mental discipline of the greatest possible advantage in the way of education. Time and space forbid our dwelling at a greater length on this very common and unfortunate deficiency in our school-books of all kinds.

The name of Mr. Walford, as a scholar and successful writer of school manuals, is sufficient to secure favourable attention to his "Exercises in Greek Verse." The work is extremely well done, and we have only to regret that these "Progressive Exercises" are not more gradual. To be complete they require more numerous examples of easy and simple verses at the beginning, and a few more hints and notes in Part IV., especially when the pupil is called upon to try his prentice hand upon the very beautiful, but at the same time the very difficult, selections from Shelley's "Alastor" and Tennyson's "Ænone." A few pages in Mr. Walford's book seem to bridge over the great gulf between the struggling beginner in Greek verse and the accomplished versemaker; this should not be.

Of Mr. Jebb's scholarly edition of the "Electra" of Sophocles we cannot speak too highly. The whole play bears evidence of the taste, learning, and fine scholarship of its able editor. Illustrations drawn from the literature of the Continent as well as of England, and the researches of the highest classical authorities are embodied in the notes, which are brief, clear, and always to the point. The scope and character of the play are well described in an interesting introduction, and the scansion of the choruses is very carefully given. The most marked feature in the work is the constant and very successful attempt made to illustrate Sophocles by what Sophocles wrote in other plays, and the parallel passages thus brought side by side do more to bring out the sense of the author than a thousand disjointed comments of conflicting commentators. We trust Mr. Jebb's useful labours will extend to the remaining plays of this peculiarly great and graceful tragedian.

We are rather disappointed than otherwise with Mr. Parry's work on Cicero's "Epistles." There is in any work of Cicero's, and especially in his "Epistles," the amplest scope for useful and sound scholarship, and of such we find but little in the notes of the volume before us. The historical and biographical portions are unquestionably well executed; while scarcely an attempt is made to bring before the student's observation the niceties, peculiarities, and subtleties of the greatest master of the Roman language that ever lived. Mr. Parry, in his preface, avowedly repudiates all grammatical questions, on the extraordinary grounds "that every good master will be able to help his scholars as well as I could, or better." Why, we ask, did Mr. Parry ever undertake an edition of Cicero, and omit what must be considered its most characteristic requirements?

Dr. White's "Cornelius Nepos" and "Eutropius" are both excellent editions, with just the kind of notes best suited to a beginner's wants and understanding. There can be no question that these two books are by far the best editions of "Nepos" and "Eutropius" known to the English public.

The last two books on our list have been compiled as illustrative addenda to "The Public School Latin Primer," concerning which we had lately so long and so wordy a war. Dr. Collis's "Praxis" is intended as an exercise book on the Primer, and Dr. White's as a parsing and question book on the same work. They are evidently useful little treatises, well adapted for their purpose, and are clear, simple, and easy in their style. The appearance of two such works so soon after the publication of "The Public School Primer," is a strong argument in favour of the much and bitterly abused manual, which we have reasons for believing to be the best Latin grammar ever produced in this country. Latin scholars were formerly made in spite of the old Latin grammars, and not by reason of them. The old grammars appealed merely to a lad's memory, and not to his powers of reflection; his memory was gorged with a *rudis indigestaque moles* of dogmatic rules, with more rhyme than reason in them (for Latin doggerel verse largely prevailed in these grammars), and the learner's mind became a receptacle for a series of disjointed, mechanical, ill-assorted ideas, very difficult to learn, but very easy to forget when learned. We have now changed all this (thanks to the wise heads of our public schools); we have now a Latin grammar eminently fitted to strengthen alike the young mind as well as the memory, by its appeal to the reflective powers; and such an influence cannot fail to invest the dry subject of grammar with an interest most beneficial to the student's progress, when the intellect is thus being gradually exercised in combining and collecting a series of facts under certain well-defined principles, easy to retain and easy to apply. The outcry raised against the new grammar on the score of its novel terminology was sophistical and shallow in the extreme, for all terms are new, and must be new, to a boy beginning his Latin grammar; and the only question should be by what kind of terms shall we give him the best and truest account of the principles of the language he is attempting to learn. The Latin Primer alone boldly has attempted this, and has succeeded beyond all question in the opinion of all unprejudiced judges.

## FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS.\*

WHEN King Solomon, or the compiler of Ecclesiastes, for in reviewing a book of quotations we must be upon our guard, indited or edited that melancholy twelfth chapter, in which he says that "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness to the flesh," he must have referred to those industrious and meek-spirited authors who, leaving the more pleasant and flowery paths of original composition, condescend to write histories as did Scott, and to compile hand-books and dictionaries as did the poet Campbell and the moralist Johnson. Nay, some true writers have been so meek that they have gone so low as a guide-book, as did Wordsworth. But guide-books to the Lakes are little to compiling a dictionary. Every man's hand is against the unfortunate scribe who deals in dates and certainties, for his pen may slip, and his references may not be exactly right. The withering scorn and the *haut-en-bas* style with which the reviewer speaks of an author who has quoted from Gower that which pertains to Chaucer, or has debited to Lucretius the end of an hexameter which belongs to Virgil is well known, and all authors ought to be very thankful to Mr. Bartlett for this fourth edition of his industriously compiled and very reliable book. This edition seems to us to be a reprint of its predecessor or predecessors, with fourteen pages of addenda containing a few, very few, quotations which were worth adding. Thus, the body of the book and index is the same as in the last edition, page for page and line for line, and the plan of the book is the same. As a specimen of some of the addenda, and a proof of the facility with which a well-worn quotation may escape an industrious compiler like Mr. Bartlett, we may cite "Apt Alliteration's artful aid," which Mr. Bartlett quotes from Churchill's "Prophecy of Famine," but he does not tell us the line, and the prophecy is a long poem, in addition to the fact that Churchill is a poet not properly esteemed—that is, not in every one's hands. Nor does Mr. Bartlett give the context. Churchill says of himself ("P. of F." line 85)—

"Who often, but without success have pray'd  
For apt Alliteration's artful aid;  
Who would but cannot, with a master's skill,  
Coin fine new epithets which mean no ill."

And he undoubtedly referred to Mason's poetry with its cloying alliterative lines, like Virgil's—

"Validas ne viscere vertite vires."

But Mr. Bartlett has graver errors than mere unscholarly omission. His plan, which, to be sure, is the very easiest that could have been adopted, is not his own, but borrowed from one who signed herself "J. R. P.," and for whom Mr. Murray, in 1853, published "A Handbook of Familiar Quotations, by a Lady," the title in italics, the very kernel of the whole, Mr. Bartlett also adopted (?) without any acknowledgement. The plans of this handbook and of Mr. Bartlett's larger and more complete volume are identical. The lady began with the Bible and the quotation, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Gen. ii. 18), and so does Mr. Bartlett, and to Murray's nine quotations from Genesis, Bartlett adds but one, and so on. Then follow the New Testament, the Prayer-book, Shakespeare, Milton, and our other poets, and under each author's name are ranged the quotations from his works. Mr. Bartlett's is a much fuller book than the lady's, whose work it has incorporated, and has the benefit of notes; but this plan is just the thing that is not wanted in a dictionary of quotations. When we desire its aid we do not know in nine cases out of ten whether Shakespeare or Ben Jonson, whether Keats or Coleridge wrote the line. What we want is, a work in a dictionary form, which, acting upon a uniform plan, will guide us at once to the author of the passage sought. It is true that Mr. Bartlett's index is a full one, but it is impossible that that should be always complete. It is, then, but fair to say that this dictionary is not nearly so complete in its contents, nor so perfect in its form as that of Mr. Grocott lately issued, or of Mr. Friswell, upon whom Mr. Bartlett makes a violent attack in a paper pasted into the covers of his volume. Now, the plan of "Familiar Words," which we reviewed some time since, is totally different from Mr. Bartlett's volume. The quotations are arranged alphabetically, with the leading word of each in italic; thus, "Art, the last and greatest, art the art to blot," from Pope, and, by this plan, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Longfellow, Swinburne, Tusser, Tupper, and Tennyson, may find themselves on the same page, and we have not to turn over several pages of Shakespeare or Milton in a mass, which latter is manifestly the easier method for the compiler. Nor, as quotations are the common property of any dictionary-maker—and indeed, to do his work thoroughly, every such workman must surround himself with the works of his predecessors,—does the charge preferred by the American against the English compiler, that he has made use of his work, amount to much. Mr. Friswell, in both his editions, acknowledges a certain amount of indebtedness to Mr. Bartlett, whereas the latter concealed the name of Mr. Murray's book and of its compiler. Moreover, Mr. Bartlett gives the celebrated "To be, or not to be," in one large extract of thirty-three lines, while the English book breaks it up and digests it under various heads. Mr. Bartlett cites 251 authors, the English work, 416. Thus, in the list of authors under the letter A, Aquinas, Aird, Austin (Alfred), and Aytoun (Professor), are omitted, although these authors furnish many essential quotations.

\* Familiar Quotations, Chiefly from English Authors. Fourth Revised Edition. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.



Under other letters the difference is much larger. Nor is Mr. Bartlett, from the fact of his being an American, perhaps so well qualified to put forward an authoritative edition of quotations as an English author used to English literary work and accustomed to quotation, which Dr. Johnson called "the parole of literary men all over the world." Still with all its drawbacks, and it would be untrue not to say that it has many, "Familiar Quotations" is a valuable book, and one to which, whether the basis be that of Mr. Murray's handbook or not, Mr. Bartlett's own industry has added much that is interesting and new to every reader. For in both the works which we have contrasted—and the contrast has been forced upon us by Mr. Bartlett's attack—the field gone over is so vast, the number of authors cited is so large, and the byways of literature, whence many citations are drawn, so numerous and often so obscure, that he must indeed have been a vast devourer of books, to whom nothing is fresh and new. As might have been expected, Mr. Bartlett cites many American authors, and now and then fishes up something that surprises us. Thus, Napoleon's (?) celebrated *mot* against the English, that we are "a nation of shopkeepers," he assigns to an oration by Samuel Adams, delivered in the State House of Philadelphia, August 1st, 1776, when Bonaparte was just seven years old. Actually, the quotation was Napoleon's own, seeing that it was not only probably original, but that it would never have obtained circulation save from the fact that the great Corsican spoke it. Again, Bentham's famous saying he traces to Beccaria, in his essay on Crimes and Punishments. But Bentham, who gave currency to the expression, himself owns that "he learned from Priestly (unless it was Beccaria) the sacred truth that the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." To conclude, it is needless to say that "Familiar Quotations" is far from complete; the lines cited from Tusser, Goldsmith, Pope, Keats, and Tennyson, which have become part of our daily tongue are exceedingly few, and certainly not always the right lines. Nor has Mr. Bartlett given us, as indeed to an American it was impossible he should, certain political catch-words and phrases which have dropped from our political leaders now and then and have become incorporated in our language. We should therefore advise Mr. Bartlett to go again to work to improve his book, especially as it must find a very large sale in America. He has already printed fourteen thousand of his useful work, and with recasting, pruning, much closer printing, and careful management, he could issue at the same price, and on a like number of pages, a much more complete and scholarly book.

#### NEW NOVELS.\*

THERE are dull stories which have the merit of being natural, and there are improbable stories, the unreality of which is redeemed by the charm of their execution; but the flippant nonsense entitled "Cometh up as a Flower" belongs neither to the one class nor to the other. There is nothing lifelike about it; the men and women who figure in it are mere distorted, dislocated puppets; the pictures of society with which it favours us are clumsy caricatures; its pathos is artificial, its facetiousness is depressing, its philosophy consists in the utterance of worn-out platitudes, and its tone is unhealthy throughout. If it is the work of a very young writer, one who is just becoming conscious of life's troubles, and who has not yet learnt the uselessness of "screaming at the great facts of creation," we may recognise in it the promise of better things, for it bears testimony to a certain amount of vigour in its author's mind, which may, by careful training, be turned to good purpose. In the present story it is thoroughly misspent, thrown away upon the expression of such sentimentalities as can find favour among those readers only who are of tender years or of feeble character. The plot is severely simple and free from all startling originality. A girl, of a type with which we are only too familiar, the representative of all that is simple-minded, golden-hearted, passionate-souled, and red-haired, falls desperately in love with a model of masculine beauty. A wicked sister, by a little dexterous forgery, separates the lovers. The heroine becomes distracted, marries a dull baronet in her despair, and ultimately falling into a decline, after learning that her hero has died in India, becomes religious towards the close of the second volume, and ends her otherwise unedifying autobiography in a strain of piety which would not be out of place in one of the publications of the Religious Tract Society. There is something far from agreeable in this vague transition from flippant jesting to prayer, but it may have been sincere on the part of the author, by whom it has possibly been made with tears gathering in the eyes. In that case we trust that her taste may be improved as years go by. At present it stands in decided need of careful training. The unmaidenly manner in which the heroine constantly dwells upon her lover's physical charms is not pleasant; and her conduct after she has married another man, with whom she can find no fault except that he is too fond of her, in entreating that lover to elope with her, is simply abominable. There is no excuse for allowing the imagination thus to run riot. Such a scene represents nothing that is real or true to nature, unless it be the ravings of a lunatic, and its introduction serves no good purpose.

\* *Cometh up as a Flower. An Autobiography.* Two vols. London: Bentley. *Sowing the Wind.* By E. Lynn Linton, author of "Lizzie Lorton of Greyrigg," &c. Three vols. London: Tinsleys. *Brought to Light.* By Thomas Speight. Three vols. London: Charles W. Wood.

whatsoever. No doubt, a girl who has sacrificed a true affection in order to marry a baronet and twelve thousand a year, will often feel a bitter compunction for what she has done; but unless her husband illtreats her, she will scarcely be inclined to give up her comfortable home and her position in society, not, to mention all that a true-hearted woman holds sacred, in order to follow her former love across the seas. Fools will do anything, of course, but the heroine of a romance is never intended to be a fool. In real life Lady Lancaster would have thriven and grown stout, taken an interest in her gardens and pineries, and entertained a sufficient affection for her indulgent lord. Now and then she would have had her hours of suffering, but with time they would have become less bitter, and eventually she would have found even a kind of pleasure in enduring them. But in the story she behaves as the Lady of Burleigh does in the ballad, and did not in actual prose. The description of Dolly, the wicked sister, has some artistic merit, but it would have fitted some Italian lady in the middle ages, of noble birth, with a propensity for poisoning, better than the daughter of a kind old English rector. And she is not even consistent with herself. She is supposed to be a thorough hypocrite, and to be always playing a part; yet she favours the sister, whom she despises, with such frank confidences as, "Is there any old lord between the three seas so old, so mumbling, so wicked, that I would not joyfully throw myself into his horrid, palsied old arms, if he had but money; money! money! money is power; money is a god!" Before parting with Dolly, we may as well call attention to the elegant description which her sister gives of her. "Dolly was not a fine woman, as they say, at all; not *beef to the heels*, by any means; in a grazier's eye, she would have had no charm whatsoever." The italics are the author's, and the expression which they intensify may serve as a specimen of her good taste. The book abounds in vulgarisms, especially in the chapters devoted to the description of aristocratic society. We are introduced to all sorts of great people; peers become commonplace objects to us, guardsmen are treated with the contempt which springs from familiarity. But the conversation of these noble beings is singularly like that of the classes to which the idea of vulgarity usually attaches itself. Here is a specimen of the airy style in which our heroine addresses her adorable lover. He has alluded to the chance of Sir Hugh Lancaster paying her a visit in the orchard where she is then standing, on which she feels "a boundless capacity for impertinence" unfolding itself within her, and she replies, "Yes, indeed, there would not have been much chance for you then; he's a 'baronite' and you are 'a shade or two wus,' as you must allow; but, fortunately for you, I don't think his dear mamma would let him come out so late at night, for fear of getting his feet wet." And here is a fragment of the conversation which, according to our author, goes on in the ranks of the upper ten thousand. The heroine and Mr. De Laney, a young aristocrat in the Guards, have been playing at croquet:—"Now for the muffin worry," says De Laney, as we stroll towards the house. "Yea," I say, laughing; "we are all being walked off to have clean bibs and tuckers on." With this illustration of the rich vein of humour which scintillates through its pages, we take our leave of "Cometh up as a Flower."

The story of "Sowing the Wind" is written with the very best intentions, and is replete with the teachings of philosophic morality. There is no trace in it of the offensive flippancy which characterizes the work of which we have just disposed. Life is treated in its pages as a very serious matter, and the delinquencies of its characters are handled with extreme severity. As a moral tale it deserves to be well spoken of, but viewed as a work of art it cannot claim any very high praise. Everything in it is exaggerated, and it leaves on the mind the same disagreeable impression that is produced on the ear by a voice that is pitched in too high a key. Scarcely any one is allowed to act naturally in the drama which Mrs. Linton brings before us, and the few exceptions to this rule have unimportant parts to play. Her original idea seems to have been to represent the folly of a proud, indolent man, who has no wants left unsupplied, and who cuts himself off from the outer world, with which he has no sympathy, in order to secure himself from any interference with his selfish pleasures. St. John Aylott is at first represented as an egotistical Sybarite, blessed with an ample fortune, a beautiful wife, and every luxury for which he has a taste, and who from the height of his noble birth looks down disdainfully upon men of humbler estate. The lesson which a reverse of fortune would teach to such a man as this might be worth relating, but Mrs. Linton is not content with so moderate an aim. She determines to show how strikingly a noble woman's generous candour contrasts with an inferior man's meanness of spirit, and accordingly she compels her unfortunate puppet to behave towards his angelic wife in a manner which is only excusable on the score of insanity. When he at last goes out of his mind, the moral of the story collapses. It is impossible to draw inferences from a maniac's ravings, or to be edified by a jeremiad on the impropriety of an idiot's conduct. As to his wife, she is one of those faultless monsters whom the world has never known. Her goodness is almost oppressive; so persistently amiable is she, in spite of the overwhelming difficulties of her position. It is true that she neglects her husband a little towards the end of the third volume, but as our author somewhat apologetically remarks, "a woman who wakes and finds her husband in the act of committing a murder, can scarcely be expected to be very demonstrative in tenderness." Of course she is finally rewarded, after her imbecile husband has been got rid of, by the devoted love of a real hero who has previously been to her a brother. On the picture of Gilbert Holmes, the worthy in question, Mrs. Linton has lavished all the resources



of her art. He is, indeed, a hero—a "granitic" man, whatever that may be; who has strength enough to enable him to lower any amount of fainting women from lofty windows during conflagrations without getting out of breath; the sort of man with whom we have met scores of times before, and always figuring "heroically" in a lady's novel. Marcy Tremouille, the treacherous southern beauty, has nothing very original about her, except a habit of clasping her hands through her father's arm, a practice which must surely have given great pain to that relative, but Jane Osborn is a somewhat unusual phenomenon. A square-headed, rugged-featured, rough-handed, dirty-nailed young lady, dishevelled as to her hair, slovenly in dress, untidy about the feet, is something different from the ordinary heroines to whom we are introduced. And the singularity of her appearance is enhanced by the odd nature of her occupation, for she earns a scanty livelihood by working for a daily paper, going down in person to the office, where she is called Jack Osborn by the boys, and is sometimes sworn at by the editor. The picture is a caricature, but it is sufficiently like nature to have an air of truth. In some respects she bears an unpleasant likeness to Miss Brass, especially when we are informed of the pleasure with which she heard herself called "a capital fellow," a "good chap," a "regular brick," and so forth, for then we cannot help remembering the terms in which Dick Swiveller used to address Mr. Sampson's masculine sister. The original sketch of Harvey Wyndham is not without merit, as long as he is represented merely as the apparently genial, but really selfish, handy man of letters, imposing on every one by his ready smile, and hearty laugh, and air of kindly sympathy. But when he takes to swindling we lose all interest in him. On the whole, we may say of the book, that it testifies to a large amount of good feeling on the part of the writer, and that it will probably obtain the applause, and perhaps elicit the tears, of the more enthusiastic section of lady readers.

The plot of "Brought to Light" is by no means either probable or original. Based on a secret maintained inviolate for a score of years, it introduces a variety of startling incidents, deeds of blood perpetrated by unconscionable ruffians at the instigation of vindictive women, horrible murders committed by maniacs after a ghastly indulgence in unseasonable laughter, perils by sea and by land, conspiracies, poisonings, and conflagrations. The machinery of his story seems to have suggested itself to the author's mind after a careful perusal of "Lady Audley's Secret" and other romances of the same school, and does not deserve any high commendation. But the characters whom Mr. Speight introduces are not badly described, and he tells his tale in a simple and straightforward style, which makes it interesting and gives it an air of reality. The hero is as usual "leonine," and he has an extraordinary fondness for epistolary communications. Early in the story he sits down to his desk, and having commenced by informing his correspondent that he is not a fluent writer, he favours him with a letter covering forty pages of print, followed up by another which occupies forty-five more. But in other respects he is not unnatural, and it is easy for a reader to become excited about his dangers and his escapes from them. The heroine does not play a very important part in the drama, but she is gracefully described, and Mr. Speight shows real artistic feeling in some of his sketches of the subordinate actors. In novels, such as those with which we are at present concerned, thoroughly ephemeral productions which are only intended to live their little day and then be forgotten for ever, we cannot expect to find a carefully elaborated plot, or a minute analysis of character. We should be contented when their several chapters are readable, when we are not startled by social solecisms, insulted by bad language, or wearied by tedious common-place. Mr. Speight's work is at least respectable. It will not bear anything like severe criticism, but it may be recommended as a harmless instrument with which to dispose of an idle hour.

#### THE SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS.

THE *Intellectual Observer* presents its readers with a more than usually varied bill of fare. The first article "On the 'Glass-rope' Hyalonema," by Professor Wyville Thomson, with a coloured plate and two illustrations, very clearly describes this curious and anomalous specimen of natural history, together with the varying opinions as to its position and affinities advanced by naturalists. This marvellous organism was first brought to Europe from Japan by the celebrated naturalist and traveller Von Siebold, and when first brought home stood in the peculiar position that nothing in the least like it had ever been seen before. In fact, doubts were expressed whether the whole affair was not an imposition—a manufactured article, instead of a natural production,—the Japanese being known to be wonderfully ingenious in the fabrication of all kinds of impossible monsters. The Hyalonema consists of three very distinct parts: first, a bundle of from 200 to 300 threads of transparent silica, glistening like brilliant spun glass, each thread about eighteen inches long, and gradually tapering towards the ends to a fine point, the whole bundle coiled into a spiral, with the upper portion payed out, and the lower end embedded perpendicularly in the middle of a bit of sponge, the lower surface of which has evidently been attached to some foreign body; and, thirdly, an apparently constant zoantharian zoophyte, with which a portion of the silicious stem and part of the sponge is always covered. "The Star Chamber, its practice and procedure," by Francis W. Rowsell, Barrister—treats of a weighty matter for historians and antiquarians, but is by no means light reading. "Indian Insects—House Visitants," by the Rev. R. Hunter, M.A., is a graphic account of the trooping of these uninvited guests to the common centre of

attraction, the lamp on the table, by one who evidently writes from personal experience. The "Climate of Great Britain," by Richard A. Proctor, B.A., is an article which is sure to excite interest, and, if perused with attention, will enable the reader to discourse scientifically on that perpetually-recurring topic of conversation amongst Englishmen, the weather. "Climate includes," says Humboldt, "all those modifications of the atmosphere by which our organs are affected—such as temperature, humidity, variations of barometric pressure, its tranquillity or subjection to foreign winds, its purity or admixture with gaseous exhalations, and its ordinary transparency—that clearness of sky so important through its influence, not only on the radiation of heat from the soil, the development of organic tissue, and the ripening of fruits, but also on the outflow of the moral sentiments in the different races." Of two countries with the same mean annual temperature, one may have a climate admirably adapted for man, whilst that of the other may present such violent contrast of heat and cold that its inhabitants, like the unfortunates described by Dante, are doomed

— a soffrir tormenti caldi e geli."

Every atlas of any importance now exhibits parallels of heat as well as parallels of latitude. Isotherms, or lines of equal mean annual temperature; isochimenes, or lines of equal winter heat; and isotherals, or lines of equal summer heat. The mean annual temperature of Great Britain is greater than that of any country lying between the same latitude-parallel, whilst the extreme range of temperature throughout the year is less. The Eastern Counties and Kent experience the coldest winters of all places in the British Isles, while Cornwall and the south-westerly parts of Ireland enjoy the mildest winter climates. Winter in Cornwall is not more severe than in Constantinople; and in the south-west of Ireland the winter is still milder, approaching the winter climate of Teheran. The heat of summer is greater along the southern coast of England than in any other part of the British Isles. The northern parts of Scotland, which enjoy a winter climate fully as warm as that of London, have a much cooler summer climate. But still more remarkable is the fact that the south-western parts of Ireland, the winter climate of which is the same as that of Persia, have a summer climate the same as that portion of Siberia in which the greatest cold ever observable in our northern hemisphere is experienced in winter. The summer of the Orkney Islands, again, is no warmer than that of the southern parts of Ireland. The range of climate at London is from about 36° in winter to 62½ in summer or 26½ Fahrenheit. In the neighbourhood of Lake Winnipeg the winter cold is 4° below zero, with a summer heat scarcely inferior to London, so that the range of climate is no less than 65°. In some parts of Siberia, near Yakutsk, for example, the vicissitudes of temperature are still more remarkable, being from 40° in winter to 62° in summer, a variation of 102°, or four times that of London. Other parts of the British Isles, however, have a still smaller range than London. In the south-western parts of Ireland, and in the Orkney Isles, the range is less than 19°.

The *Philosophical Magazine* opens with an article "On Aplanatic Telescopes," by W. R. Grove, Esq., F.R.S. It will be fresh in the recollection of our readers that Mr. Grove, in his address as President of the British Association at Nottingham, alluded to the defects in the achromatic telescope caused by the irrationality of spectra, and suggested the use of oily or resinous substances, such as castor-oil, Canada balsam, &c., as a means of lessening or removing the difficulty. In the present communication, he details the results of his practical attempts at improving his own telescopes, and the means by which, after much labour and many abortive efforts, he eventually succeeded. The cements recommended by Mr. Grove are either resins and castor-oil, or Canada balsam and castor-oil, and he apparently leans towards the latter. Viscous Canada balsam and castor-oil mixed, and heated and cooled repeatedly, ultimately become solid. This is succeeded by a mathematical paper of considerable length "On the Dynamical Theory of Deep-sea Tides, and the Effect of Tidal Friction," by D. D. Heath, M.A. The writer informs us that to the best of his knowledge an exposition of the dynamical theory of the tides is only to be found in Airy's treatise on the subject, in the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, and that he has in the present paper attempted to separate the main principles and typical cases having reference to deep and continuous seas, from the more complicated calculations in which they lie embedded, and also endeavoured to exhibit them so as to shed a clearer light on the physical laws which they prove. Such is the scope of the earlier and larger portion of the paper—the latter portion, both that relating to Laplace's theorems and to the effect of friction, the author hopes may be found to carry the theory a little onward. The next article is a *résumé*, by Mr. Atkinson, of the labours of M. Stas on the determination of atomic weights. Mr. Croll contributes a paper "On the Reason why the Difference of Reading between a Thermometer Exposed to Direct Sunshine, and one Shaded, Diminishes as we Ascend in the Atmosphere." Mr. Glaisher first observed the remarkable fact that the difference of reading between a black-bulb thermometer exposed to the direct rays of the sun and one shaded diminishes as we ascend in the atmosphere. Mr. Croll shows that on reviewing the matter under the light of Professor Tyndall's important discovery regarding the influence of aqueous vapour on radiant heat, the fact stated by Mr. Glaisher appears to be in perfect harmony with theory.

The *Artisan*.—In addition to its original communications and well-selected digest of engineering and other applications of science to the industrial arts, the recent numbers of this periodical have contained a series of articles—"On Vast Sinkings of Land in the Northerly and Westerly Coasts of France and South-western Coast of England within the Historical Period," by R. A. Peacock, of Jersey, of great interest both in an antiquarian and geological point of view. The writer shows, that if we are to credit Cæsar with that skill in concise, accurate, and graphic description of everything occurring under his personal observation attributed to him by his contemporaries, the narrative of his sea-fight with the Veneti, contained in his "Com-



mentaries on the Gallic War," negatives the usual assumption that this battle took place off the western coast of Brittany. Pliny the Elder, who wrote within a century of the sea-fight with the Veneti, states that they had almost 200 islands. Captain Richards, R.N., chief of the Admiralty Survey of the Channel Island seas now in progress, finds that if the sea-bottom was lifted twenty-two fathoms, the bottom would be dry at low water all the way from Guernsey to the Continent, except one space of about a mile wide, which is two fathoms deeper. Mr. Peacock adduces the peat and submerged trees now found in the coasts of the Channel Islands, several feet below the sand at low water, as an evidence of the sinking of land that has taken place, and believes the present islands of Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark, to have been more or less connected with the Continent, to have formed part of the archipelago of 200 islands spoken of by Pliny as having belonged to the Veneti, and to have been the theatre of the celebrated sea-fight with these people, whilst Sabinus's battle with the Unelli and others took place near the present Coutances.

*Hardwicke's Science Gossip* is characterized by its usual judicious selection of viands for its patrons. We copy the following from its pages:—"At Falkingham, Lincolnshire, in October, 1866, was daily seen the following curious instance of maternal affection. A hen was sitting upon her eggs for hatching; she had them taken away from her, but still she persevered in keeping on her nest. One day when away to feed, an old pussy took possession and kitted five kittens within it. On the hen's return, instead of being disconcerted at the intruders, she took to both cat and kittens, and with the same assiduity as if her own chickens, began and continued to regularly brood them, always pulling any stray kitten under her wings, and if any curious person on viewing them displaced one, would make as great a disturbance as if one of her own chickens had been taken from her. During this singular attachment she would always make room for the old cat to suckle them. She was allowed to have them under her care for three weeks; then she was prevented going to them, and apparently suffered a great loss by the privation."

The *Medical Mirror* describes itself on its title page as "an organ of independent medical opinion," and if it fulfils its professions certainly steps into an hiatus in literature, and deserves to be welcomed and supported. Considering how infinitesimally small has been the share of observation—or deduction from results—in determining the routine of medical practice, and how entirely the exhibition of drugs has been ruled by the dominant medical theories of the day and hour, the dogmatic tone of the periodical literature of the profession has been as deplorable in its indications as misplaced in its tenour. It speaks well for the honesty of the present periodical that it gives the post of honour to an article "On the Preservation of the Health," and contains a highly laudatory notice, accompanied with long extracts, of Mr. Skey's six lectures "On Hysteria and the Treatment of Disease by Tonic Agency," delivered in 1866 to the students of Bartholomew's Hospital, being one of the heaviest blows ever dealt to the now happily moribund system of Sangradoism which has so long prevailed, and the statistics of which, could they be but fairly obtained, would assuredly show the lancet to be a more deadly weapon than the sword.

The February number of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* contains a very interesting "Case of Aphasia, with right Hemiplegia," where the autopsy disclosed a lesion of the inferior frontal convolution, and the gyri of the island of Reil and its vicinity; another case calculated to open the eyes of the medical profession to the fact long since established by the observations of Gall, that the organ of language has its seat in close proximity to the insula. The case is recorded by Dr. Scoresby-Jackson, who, we regret to state, has since fallen a victim to typhus fever contracted in the discharge of his duties as physician to the Royal Infirmary. During the winter session of 1865-6 he had taken charge of large numbers of typhus patients, but escaped an attack of the disease. In the course of the present winter the fever patients were comparatively few in number, but Dr. Jackson's health being somewhat impaired by overwork, he was suddenly struck down by typhus, to which he has fallen a victim at the early age of 33 years. The number also contains a "Case of Traumatic Tetanus successfully treated by the direct application of the Infusion of Tobacco," interesting from the very clear evidence it affords of the power of the remedy to control the disease, the paroxysms of which, recurring upon the removal of the tobacco, passed off again within a few minutes of its reapplication.

Received the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for March, and the *Geological Magazine*.

#### SHORT NOTICES.

*The Graduated German Reader.* By Albert Bartels, Ph.D. (London: David Nutt.)—Strange to say, as is seldom the case with educational works of this nature, the writer of the above performs what he promises in his preface. In general, nothing can be more unreal than the advantages which such authors state distinguish their productions from others. As a rule, each succeeding work is really no better than its predecessor, and is only brought out because some teacher wishes to have a book of his own, and to be looked upon as an authority. "Readers," that is to say, collections of extracts from authors in any foreign language, furnish the easiest opportunity for a man to append his name to a book. Nothing can be easier than to make up a book of the kind if no care be exercised, and if the compiler be unconscientious. Hence "Readers" in French, German, and other languages abound, which consist of extracts put together without any order, either with reference to history or graduation of difficulty to the student, accompanied by a few notes, which generally explain what requires no explanation, and leave unexplained any really obscure or difficult passage. Now, unthankful as the task may be to compile it, no work is really more useful to a student in acquiring a language than a really good "Reader;" but plentiful as so-called "Readers" are, carefully and conscientiously prepared ones in any language are still rare indeed. Great credit is therefore due to Dr. Bartels for having really distinguished himself and his book by boasting of

no more than the truth when he asserts that his work differs in the following features from all other German Readers:—It is essentially graduated according to difficulty—the right thing in a book of this kind—all historical allusions have been thoroughly explained, and the meanings of words and phrases not to be found in dictionaries have been invariably given; in fact, no difficulty has been passed over. We can only add we are glad to see such a book, and confidently recommend it.

*Cassell's Biographical Dictionary.* Edited by T. Teignmouth Shore, M.A. Part I. (Cassell, Petter, & Galpin.)—The names of the editor and of the publishers of this new biographical dictionary are a guarantee that it will be in every respect worthily produced. Amongst the writers whom Mr. Shore has already pressed into his service are the following:—the Right Hon. Joseph Napier, D.C.L., Ex-Lord High Chancellor of Ireland; the Rev. Canon Payne Smith, D.D., Regius Prof. Divinity, University of Oxford; Aurelio Saffi, late Professor of Modern Languages in the University of Oxford; J. F. Waller, LL.D., Vice-President Royal Irish Academy (author of a "Life of Swift," "Goldsmith," &c.); Colonel Meadows Taylor, author of "Tara," "The Confessions of a Thug," &c.; D. F. McCarthy, author of "Translation of Calderon's Dramas," &c.; Dr. R. P. Stewart, Professor of Music in the University of Dublin; Dr. Doran, author of "His Majesty's Servants"; Walter Thornbury, author of "Haunted London"; John Short, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law. The first part, which lies before us, is admirably printed on good paper, and contains thirty-two pages of letterpress, with a portrait, on toned paper, of Addison. A portrait of one of the subjects of biographical notice will be given with each number. So that for sixpence a month the public will have what promises to be a very valuable work.

*A Thousand and One Gems of English Poetry.* Selected and arranged by Charles Mackay, LL.D. (Routledge.)—Dr. Mackay has shown considerable taste in his selections of the "Thousand and One Gems." There is an alarming increase of books of poetical extracts, but they are generally destitute of method or discrimination. Dr. Mackay exhibits the skill of a refined lapidary in judging and sorting these literary jewels. He never mistakes paste or pinchbeck for the genuine pearls and setting.

*The Last Chronicle of Barset.* By Anthony Trollope. Illustrated by G. H. Thomas. Vol. I. (Smith, Elder, & Co.)—We prefer to reserve an extended notice of this work until its conclusion; but up to the point it has now reached, we have seldom read a more interesting story. If the second volume fulfils the promise of the first, Mr. Trollope can fairly claim to have proved his best leap in fiction. The illustrations are distinct and thoughtful.

*The Art of Dressing Well. The Laws and Bye-Laws of Good Society.* (Simpkin & Marshall.)—These two little handy-books on etiquette are the best of the kind we have ever read. They are not, perhaps, quite free from the inevitable absurdities attendant upon all organized schemes for the manufacture of artificial gentlemen, but they differ markedly from similar treatises. They appear, in the first place, to have been written by qualified teachers of good manners; and in the next, the authors understand how to put their instructions in sound English, and to mingle with them a great deal of sound sense.

*Church Embroidery, Ancient and Modern, Practically Illustrated.* By Anastasia Dolby, late Embroidress to the Queen. (Chapman & Hall.)—This book may be of service to those coquetting with Roman Catholicism, and who are fond of playing about the skirts of that Church. The proper dimensions of decorative angels and apostles are given in the completest style of ecclesiastical millinery; and we are told that "small French knots represent the hair of the seraphim admirably." If these things are to be done at all, we suppose they ought to be done properly, and the authoress of this work appears to have spared no labour, and to have lavished considerable skill on her treatise.

*Coming Wonders.* By the Rev. M. Baxter. (S. W. Partridge.)—As a specimen of religion gone mad, or of a cunning trap to catch the credulous, this book is worth seeing. Mr. Baxter in no way resembles his namesake, the author of the old tract who wrote the "Shove." He can claim a literary consinship with Dr. Cumming and the prophet Zedekiel, while that division of the human family in which P. T. Barnum was distinguished may be proud to receive him amongst them.

*Betsy J. Ward: Her Book of Goats.* (Routledge & Sons.)—This dreary effort at second-hand fun appears at a time when its silliness assumes an almost disgusting aspect. We found it impossible to get beyond the preface and the first chapter. We do not envy the feelings of the writer who is capable of such a work—his vulgarity is on a level with his assurance, and both are entirely above even the small capacity he exhibits for humour.

*The Lancet* has republished the Reports on the "Sanitary Condition of our Merchant Seamen" in a pamphlet form. We regret that our contemporary did not extend the work so well commenced. As far as they go these reports are highly interesting and useful.

We have received the March No. of the *North British Review*, and regret that press of matter prevents our noticing it at the length it deserves. The articles as a whole are good, and that upon the "Political Writings of Richard Cobden" is a really able paper.

We have also received *The First Age of Christianity and the Church*, second edition (Allen & Co.);—*Scriptural Studies* (Saunders & Otley);—*Civilization, Tazatin, and Representation* (Ridgway);—*A Traveller's Champs, Flânneries, par Le Chevalier de Chatelain* (Rolandi);—*Jamaica in 1866* (Bennett);—*The London Diocese Book, 1867* (Rivingtons);—*Our Schools and Colleges* (Hardwicke);—*The Book of Knots* (Same Publisher);—*Practical Housekeeping* (Routledge);—*Alice, or the Mysteries, and Ernest Maltravers*, shilling edition of Lord Lytton's novels (Same Publisher);—a shilling edition of *Charles Lamb's Essays* (Bell & Daldy);—*Over the Cliffs* (Smith & Elder);—*Lilian's Choice and the Cheshire People* (Newby);—*Hints on the Qualities of Gold* (Hancock);—*Two Lectures* (Freeman);—Part XIX. of *Johnson's Dictionary*, by Dr. R. G. Latham; and Part XXXVIII. of *Watt's Dictionary of Chemistry*, both from the Messrs. Longmans;—and Nos. 5 and 6 of *St. Stephen's Chronicle* (Bentley).



## LITERARY GOSSIP.

GREAT activity is at the present time observable in the periodical and newspaper worlds. The addition of late to the number of monthly Magazines has been very large, and, among weekly journals, there have been several new births in the present year. The *Imperial Review*, the *St. Stephen's Chronicle*, and some Roman Catholic publications, have been added to the list; the *Chronicle*, another Catholic journal, is announced; and several rumours of new daily papers have been floating about for the last few weeks. One of these latter projects is on the eve of being brought to the test of performance, a morning journal called the *Day* being announced for speedy publication. It is to be an organ of "Constitutional Liberalism"—a somewhat vague phrase, which may mean either "Liberal Conservatism" (in itself a term capable of many interpretations), or the principles of the Adullamite party, led by Mr. Lowe. A little while ago, we heard that "the Cave" was to have its organ in the daily press, and the *Day* may be the fulfilment of that rumour. The title is certainly a very good one—as concise and almost as expressive as the *Times*. It is not new, however. We believe there was a paper so called in the last century; and, some ten or eleven years ago, an obscure journal, of very short life, appeared and disappeared under the same designation. The offices of the new paper are in Drury-court, Strand—not at all a cheerful locality, but the editors of the daily press are seldom well accommodated in this respect. We wish the *Day* all reasonable success; for it seems to us that there are not sufficient daily papers for the rapidly increasing readers of London and the provinces.

It is very gratifying to observe the prosperous state of that most excellent of benevolent associations, The Royal Literary Fund, the annual general meeting of which was held on Wednesday, at the offices of the corporation, Adelphi-terrace; Earl Stanhope, the President, in the chair. To those whose pens had ceased, through old age, affliction, or infirmities, there was administered during the past year, in forty-nine grants, a sum of £1,605; and so rigidly does secrecy seem to be maintained that in no case have the names of the persons benefited been divulged since the commencement of the Society's good work, unless where they themselves have graciously acknowledged it. The permanent fund now amounts to £16,000, producing an annual dividend of £780. The stock of the Newton property consists of £8,167. 15s. 10d., 3 per cent., producing an annual dividend of £245. 0s. 8d., and the Newton Estate at Whitechapel produced in rents during the year the sum of £203. According to the Treasurer's report, the classification of authors relieved was as follows:—History and biography, 11; biblical literature, 1; science and art, 1; periodical literature, 7; topography and travels, 4; classical literature and education, 2; political economy, 1; poetry, 6; essays and tales, 11; drama, 1; law, 3; and medicine, 1. Of these, 19 were relieved for the first, 6 for the second, 13 for the third, 2 for the fourth, 2 for the fifth, 2 for the sixth, 3 for the seventh, 1 for the eighth, and 1 for the ninth time. Of the total number, 33 were males and 16 females, nine of the latter being authors, 5 widows, and two orphans. The annual dinner will take place on the 15th of May, at Willis's Rooms, when Dean Millman will occupy the chair.

Lord Houghton presided a few days ago at the monthly meeting of the Newspaper Press Fund committee of management; on which occasion, a letter was read from Mr. Gladstone expressing his intention of accepting the chairmanship at the society's festival early in June.

A bibliographical curiosity has come to light in a curious list published in the last number of the *Bookseller*. A work by Sir Richard Steele is there mentioned, of which no mention is made in any bibliographical work, or by any biographer or writer on Steele. It is entitled—"Sir Richard Steele's Account of Mr. Desaguliers's New-invented Chimneys, 1715-16." It is very strange that the writings of Steele have never been collected and published; but such is the fact. Steele, we believe, dabbled in bricks and mortar. Did he try the new-invented chimneys at the Hovels at Hampton-Wick, and then give the world the benefit of his experiences?

Our daily contemporaries record the death of the Rev. George Oliver, D.D., a writer on Freemasonry, who, besides works on the body to which he belonged, was the author of "The Religious Houses on the Witham," "The History and Antiquities of Grimsby, Beverley, and Wolverhampton," "Scopwickiana," and the "History of the Holy Trinity Guild at Sleaford."

Mr. James Bruton, well known as a writer of comic songs, and formerly a contributor to *Punch*, died recently in the Palace-road, Westminster. We also see announced the death of Mr. Meehan, for more than forty years a police reporter for the *Times*, the *Morning Advertiser*, and other papers.

The severity of the censorship over the press now existing in Spain has resulted in the death, from sheer exhaustion and the absence of all interesting matter, of one or two papers which seem to have determined to be either Liberal or nothing.

Count Arrivabene, who is stated, in one of Reuter's telegrams, to have been unsuccessful as a candidate at Mantua, and to have determined on standing for Soresina, was well-known here a few years ago as a writer for some of our London papers, and as the author of a work in the English language called "Italy under Victor Emmanuel."

M. Victor Cousin, in bequeathing his immense library to the Sorbonne, made certain conditions which are thus stated in the French papers:—"He requires that the library shall be left just as it is, in the very same place, so that readers may be received in the apartment which he inhabited for more than thirty years, but now to be transformed into one of the library rooms of the Sorbonne. He also leaves to that building all the furniture and engravings that adorned his room. He formally forbids any books being lent out of the premises. He endows the Sorbonne with an annual income of 10,000 f.—viz., 4,000 f. for the librarian, 2,000 f. for the sub-librarian, 1,000 f. for the reading-room clerk, and 3,000 f. for keeping the books in repair. Lastly, he designates M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire as chief librarian, and leaves him all his papers, charging him expressly to

write his (the testator's) biography. The posts of chief and sub-librarian are hereafter to be reserved for *agregés* of the university. Having made all these dispositions, M. Cousin appoints as universal legatees MM. Mignet, Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and Frémyn, who will have at least 400,000 f. to share amongst them, after all deductions, and independent of a capital representing an annual income of 4,000 f., bequeathed especially to M. Mignet."

We see by the daily papers that M. Guizot has read, in the *salon* of a friend in Paris, a chapter of the eighth and concluding volume of his "Memoirs," which is to be published in a few days. It gives an account of the Pontificate of Pius IX. and a sketch of the political state of Italy during the interval between 1846 and the Revolution of February. The volume closes with a summary of the events that have since then taken place in the Peninsula.

The journeymen printers of Paris have held a meeting, at which they protested against the present system of granting special permission to start printing offices, and declared that the printing business should be thrown open to all.

M. Philardète Charles, the French critic, having been accused, in a recent number of the *Athenæum*, by a Mr. Samuel Neil, of plagiarizing from him certain suggestions with reference to the origin of Shakespeare's Sonnets, has addressed to that publication a letter, in which he denies the plagiarism, and asserts that his ideas are really very distinct from those of Mr. Neil.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon publishes a long personal statement in the last number of the *Athenæum* with reference to a criticism by Father Noyes, the Father of Bible Communism in the United States, on his (Mr. Dixon's) account of the Bible Family at Oneida, in his work on "New America." Mr. Noyes complains of injustice in that account, and says that Mr. Dixon was discomposed by the plainness of the Bible Family's living when he stayed with them. He owned, says Mr. Noyes, that he was "unstrung" by their spare diet. Mr. Dixon does not deny this impeachment, but he defends himself against the charge of injustice.

Sir Roderick Murchison, in a letter to Sir C. H. Rawlinson read at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday evening, expresses some doubts as to the truth of the story told by the Johanna men with respect to the murder of Dr. Livingstone, and thinks it may have been fabricated as an excuse for their desertion of the traveller. On the other hand, Sir C. H. Rawlinson augurs ill from the fact that, although eight or nine months have elapsed since the date of the supposed crime, no contradiction has yet reached us.

An autograph of Oliver Cromwell, being his signature, "Oliver P.," to a warrant, dated Dec. 20, 1655, for the payment of £500 to Sir Charles Wolseley for his continued attention to the service of the Commonwealth, will be offered for sale next week by Messrs. Bentley & Hill, Worcester, among the effects of the late Mr. Tymbs of Britannia-square, Worcester.

The *English Independent* states that Dr. William Smith, who recently resigned the classical professorship at New College, is to be the new editor of the *Quarterly Review*.

Mr. John J. Stuart Glennie, who accompanied Mr. Buckle on his last tour, and was with him at his death, is about to publish a volume of verse as an introduction to a proposed series of plays on the Arthurian legends, one of which is to be on "The Quest of the Holy Grail."

Messrs. PARKER & Co. have issued a revised copy of the inaugural lecture on Modern History, delivered at Oxford by Professor Stubbs, who has succeeded to the chair of Modern History lately held by Mr. Goldwin Smith.

Mr. J. E. Whalley, writing to a contemporary, suggests the desirability of introducing the word *photogram*, in lieu of "photograph," as being more correct. He also thinks that *stereogram* might be substituted for "stereoscopic slide." With respect to the first, we do not think there is any likelihood of his succeeding: "photograph" has got its roots in the popular speech, and is not likely to be dislodged. The other word, being a contraction, may pass.

A gentleman advertises in the *Times* that he "has instructed the Secretary to the British Anti-Tobacco Society to offer £50 for the best approved Essay on the History and Properties of Tobacco, and on its physical action on the human body, through its various modes of employment; and £50 for the best approved Essay on the Moral, Social, and Economical Results of the use of Tobacco."

Mr. Carlyle is said to be one of the visitors at Mentone this winter.

Mr. W. H. Smith, the great news-agent, of the Strand, and the Conservative candidate for Westminster at the last general election, has been elected Treasurer of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in the room of the late Mr. William Cotton.

In the year 1866, 48,441 cwts. of books—more than 5,000,000 lb.—were exported from the United Kingdom. Their value, as registered at the Custom House, was £602,177, a little over 26d. per pound.

Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, who served in the Confederate Cavalry, is engaged upon a history of the American war.

Messrs. LONGMAN & Co. are preparing for publication in four sheets a new map of Switzerland and the adjoining countries, on a scale of four miles to an inch, from Schaffhausen on the north to the southern slopes of the Val d'Aoste and Milan on the south, and from the Ortelier Group on the east to Geneva on the west; constructed under the immediate superintendence of the Alpine Club, and edited by R. O. Nichols, F.S.A., F.R.G.S.; the maps drawn and engraved by Alexander Keith Johnston, LL.D., F.R.G.S.

Messrs. TINSLEY BROTHERS intend publishing in the course of a few days a new version of the famous "Diamond Necklace" romance, to a considerable extent based on entirely new materials, such as unpublished letters, contemporary memoirs recently made public, and official documents, which have been strangely overlooked by the many writers on this subject.

Messrs. ADAMS & FRANCIS advertise a novel in four volumes, at two guineas, to be called "The Loyalist's Daughter." This is really cruelty to reviewers, and we protest against it beforehand.



## LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR THE WEEK.

- Auerbach (B.), On the Heights. 3 vols. 16mo., 4s. 6d.  
 Autographic Mirror (The). Vol. IV. Royal 4to., 21s.  
 Bonar (H.), Family Sermons. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Bourdillon (Rev. F.), Bedside Readings. 1 vol. Fcap., 3s. 6d.  
 Brown Book (The). 1867. Fcap., 1s.  
 Calendar of State Papers.—Elizabeth, 1561-1562. Edited by J. Stevenson. Royal 8vo., 15s.  
 Cates (W. L.), Pocket Date Book. 2nd edit. Cr. 8vo., 3s. 6d.  
 Child's Own Book (The). New edit. 16mo., 5s.  
 Cobbold (T. S.), Tape Worms and Thread Worms. Fcap., 3s. 6d.  
 Colton (Rev. C. C.), Læcon, or Many Things in Few Words. New edit. Fcap., 2s. 6d.  
 Coombs (Jessie), Thoughts for the Inner Life. Cr. 8vo., 5s.  
 Cooper (Mrs.), Sketch of the Life of (Memorials of a Beloved Mother). Fcap., 3s. 6d.  
 Davidson (D.), Pocket Commentary on the Old and New Testaments. 3 vols. 18mo., 6s.  
 ———, Pocket Biblical Dictionary. New edit. 18mo., 2s. 6d.  
 Debreth's Heraldic House of Commons, 1867. Cr. 8vo., 6s.  
 Duncan (Mary B.), Bible Hours. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 4s. 6d.  
 ——— (Rev. David), Discourses. Cr. 8vo., 5s.  
 Feller (F. E.), New Pocket German and English Dictionary. 8th edit. 32mo., 3s. 6d.  
 Field (L.), Dunn (E. C.), and Biddle (J.), Forms and Precedents of Pleadings. Part I. 8vo., 16s.  
 Fitzgerald (P.), 75, Brooke-street: a Story. 3 vols. Cr. 8vo., £1. 11s. 6d.  
 Fleming (N.), Student's Manual of Moral Philosophy. Cr. 8vo., 7s. 6d.  
 Found Afloat, and other Tales. Fcap., 3s.  
 Fox (W. J.), Collected Works. Vol. VI. Cr. 8vo., 5s.  
 Gardiner (Commander Allen), Story of the Life of. Fcap., 2s.  
 Hamperton the Financier. By Morley Farrow. 3 vols. Cr. 8vo., £1. 11s. 6d.  
 Haskell (W. D.), Engineer's Field Book. 2nd edit. 12mo., 12s.  
 Hazlitt (W. C.), Hand Book to the Literature of Great Britain. Part I. Royal 8vo., 2s. 6d.  
 Heir (The) of Maberley, by H. G. Sturkey. 2 vols. Cr. 8vo., 21s.  
 Hook (Dean), Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury. Vol. V. 8vo., 16s.  
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